

# *Sisters of St. Francis*

o f M a r y I m m a c u l a t e

Whenever Sister Irene Yosick was asked the patronal name day that she celebrated, she was quick to point out that her name came from the Greek word for peace. Irene was born in Shelby, Ohio, the fourth of ten children to Frank and Lillian Soldan Yosick. Irene and her six brothers and three sisters went to Saint Mary's School in Shelby, and during the last years that our sisters were there both she and her sister Martha Ann, known for some years as Sister Poverello, were assigned to teach in the school. Irene held the record in the 58 years of Joliet Franciscan Sisters there for spending 17 years at the school. Irene was proud to say that in her 40 years as an educator she had taught "about 8000 students."

While her major work as a sister was that of education, she always wove into that ministry concern for peace-making. She was a teacher and principal during the turbulent year of our nation at the time of the civil rights demonstrations of the sixties when she was at Saints Peter and Paul in South Chicago.

She was constantly aware of those in society who were the most vulnerable and the need for their peace of mind. She recalled reaching out to the local Catholic community center in Columbus where the sisters taught crafts, basics in sewing, gave a charm class and supervised a pool room—all to keep the youngsters there productively occupied when they came to the center after school hours.

When her ministry turned to that of elder care, first for her own parents and then for others after the deaths of Frank and Lillian, she took as her focus not only the person's physical needs but the spiritual need for harmony of body and spirit.

Some of our sisters studied at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, when Irene—then Sister Emmanuel—was the superior and principal. For some that was a period of five summers. Saint Michael Convent was on the bus line from the university, so logically it was chosen to be home for

# *Alleluia!*



*Sister Irene Yosick, OSF*

the sisters who were enrolled there, both Joliet Franciscans and Franciscans from Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Irene immediately volunteered to stay at the convent to be the housemother for the summer as the sisters who were students "would not have any time to cook for themselves and they needed to be well nourished." Irene was a gifted cook and a welcoming person—perfect for that role which was so appreciated.

Even her smallest acts contributed in a significant way to the efforts of others. Irene was duly proud of her record as a blood donor who gave 109 pints of blood. She also is remembered as being the model of the hands on the Franciscan mosaic formerly at Our Lady of Angels and now in the theater of the Motherhouse at the University of Saint Francis.

When Irene went to Our Lady of the Angels, she took with her from her Shelby apartment a flute. This talent as a musician was her time of meditation. Music gave her peace. On the last morning of her life, Sister Odelia, Irene's roommate at Saint Patrick's Residence, witnessed Irene's radiant and angelic look and as a result was moved to sing to Irene "Amazing Grace." Surely the cause of that glow was the peace that Irene so treasured and spread to so many. Alleluia!

**Alleluia Letter written by  
Sister Margaret Hoffman**

(OVER)

*Sister Irene Yosick, OSF*  
*December 11, 1929—October 28, 2024*

<i>Born:</i>	December 11, 1929
<i>Parents:</i>	Frank J. Yosick and Lillian Soldan
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 4, 1945
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1946
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1948
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1951
<i>Transfer of Commitment:</i>	August 15, 1976
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	October 28, 2024

**Ministry History**

1948-1951	Teacher: Grade 2 and 3, SS. Cyril and Methodius, Chicago, Illinois
1951-1952	Teacher: Grades 2 and 3, St. Ann, Lansing, Illinois
1952-1953	Teacher: Grade 4, St. Michael, Worthington, Ohio
1953-1955	Teacher: Grade 2, St. Joseph, Elgin, Illinois
1955-1957	Teacher: Grades 1 and 2, Assumption, Chicago
1957-1959	Teacher: Grades 2, 3 and 6, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1959-1961	Teacher: Freshman Homeroom, Algebra, Geometry, Applied Math, Basic Math, Math Club, St. Francis Academy, Joliet, Illinois
1961-1963	Teacher: Sophomore Homeroom, Algebra, Geometry, Sophomore Advisor, Church Work, St. Peter High School, Mansfield, Ohio
1963-1966	Superior/Principal: St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, Ohio
1966-1968	Superior/Principal: SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago
1968-1969	Superior/Principal: St. Michael, Worthington
1969-1970	Assistant Principal: St. Peter Grade School, Mansfield
1970-1973	Principal: St. Peter Grade School, Mansfield
1973-1977	Teacher: Grade 2, St. Mary, Shelby, Ohio
1977-1981	Teacher/Tutor/Ministry to Family: St. Mary, Shelby High School, Family Home, Shelby
1982-1983	Teacher/Ministry to Family: St. Mary, Family Home
1983-1984	Teacher/Parish Ministry/Ministry to Family: St. Mary, Family Home, Shelby
1984-1988	Teacher/Ministry to Family: St. Mary, Family Home, Shelby
1988-1993	Ministry to Family: Mother's Residence, Shelby
1993-2000	Home Health Care: Mother's Residence, Shelby
2000-2001	Volunteer: Shelby
2001-2018	Elder Care: Elderly Residences, Shelby
2018-2023	Community Service: Our Lady of Angels Nursing Home, Joliet
2023-2024	Ministry of Presence and Prayer: Heritage Woods, Minooka, Illinois
2023-2024	Ministry of Presence and Prayer: St. Patrick's Residence, Naperville, Illinois

<i>Interment:</i>	Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Lillian (Soldan) and Frank J. Yosick, her brothers: Paul (Rosanna) Yosick, Robert (Ramona) Yosick, John (Aline) Yosick, Kenneth (Sue) Yosick, Dennis Yosick, Thomas Yosick; her sisters, Patricia Lysinger and Sister Martha Ann Yosick, who was also a member of the Joliet Franciscans; her brother-in-law Thomas Courtney
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her sister Joan Courtney (Grove City, Ohio); and her sisters-in-law Emilia Yosick (Northbrook, Illinois) and Doris Yosick (Hanover, Pennsylvania), over 100 nieces, grand-nieces and grand-nephews

*Rest in Peace, Sister Irene!*