

Sisters of St. Francis

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

As evening fell on August 27, 2026, the late summer skies revealed a lunar eclipse – understood by the Ancients to be a dynamic cosmic catalyst for letting go of the past and undergoing a deep transformation brought about by the power of the Divine. For our Sister Odelia, it signaled the peaceful ending of her earthly life and the joyful beginning of her *transitus* into the newness of eternal life.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, on August 5, 1942, and welcomed into the world by her loving parents, Estelle (Slowik) and Louis S. Kloc, Odelia Marie was a beloved daughter, at once quiet and sensitive, yet curious and creative. Together with her younger brother, Tom, Odelia grew up in a small Polish American family, where she was immersed in her ethnic heritage from an early age. Central to that heritage was her Catholic faith which was nurtured by her parents, relatives and neighbors and profoundly influenced by the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate who became her teachers and sources of Franciscan inspiration at St. Pascal parish school on Chicago's northwest side. As an adolescent, studying at Resurrection High School, Odelia also came under the influence of the international congregation of the Sisters of the Resurrection. Throughout her childhood and adolescence Odelia came to understand more deeply what it meant to be a missionary disciple in the context of a world church. As her sense of vocational call to religious life became more evident, Odelia was supported by her family, her pastor, Msgr. Heimsath and the Sisters at St. Pascal's in her decision to enter the Joliet Franciscans at the age of eighteen.

Odelia's years in formation were marked by

Alleluia!



Sister Odelia Kloc, OSF

dramatic changes in the church and the world. As a postulant, she began her undergraduate studies at the College of St. Francis majoring in biology. At the time of her reception as a novice on August 12, 1961, she was given the name Sister Anton Marie. She made her first profession of vows on August 12, 1963, the same year the first four Joliet Franciscans established the congregation's mission in Brazil. Five years later, on August 12, 1968, she professed her final vows as the renewal of religious life initiated by Vatican II was underway.

Taking up the challenge of educating lively first-graders, Sr. Odelia began teaching in 1965 at St. Mary's school in Plainfield, Illinois. Three years later, she was missioned to St. Ludmilla's parish school in Chicago. The Little Village neighborhood that once was a point of entry for Czech immigrants had become home to recently arrived Mexican immigrants. Attentive to the multiple needs of six-year-olds who were just beginning to learn English, Sr. Odelia's intercultural consciousness and competencies increased, so too was her missionary self-understanding. In December of 1971, Sr. Odelia experienced the significant loss of both of her parents who died within weeks of each other.

With their passing, the course of Sr. Odelia's life was definitively changed. In the summer of 1974, along with Sr. Margaret Noser, she was missioned to Brazil to begin language and culture studies at the Center for Intercultural Formation [CENFI] in Rio de Janeiro before assuming her new assignment at the Convento San Damiano in Goiânia.

Sr. Odelia's years in Brazil, from 1974 until 1997, were characterized by numerous opportunities, challenges, and responsibilities. As teacher, school administrator, and pastoral minister, she accompanied children, young people, families, and the elderly from the nearby stone quarries and the *vilas* and *parques* surrounding San Damiano, and in later years in the *vilas* of Santa Helena de Goiás and Caseara, Tocantins. To this day she is remembered fondly by those who knew her years ago, as demonstrated by the many messages of prayers and sympathy that were expressed when news of her death reached Brazil. As a formator for many of our Brazilian sisters, and later as regional coordinator for the community in Brazil, Sr. Odelia's studies at the Center for Franciscan and Pastoral Studies [CEFEPAL] in Petropolis proved to be a transformative experience. It was there that she deepened her Franciscan-Clarean identity and spirituality and discovered important resources for developing her own leadership competencies as she took on roles in religious formation and congregation administration.

Upon Sr. Odelia's return from Brazil to the United States in 1997, she went on to pursue a master's degree in Transpersonal Psychology and music therapy at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado. Given her training in holistic human development across the lifespan, she was attuned to the importance of enriching lives through mindfulness, music,

and person-centered care. From 2000 until her retirement in 2022, Sister "Dee", a kind-hearted, generous, and dedicated music therapist, was employed at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home where her missionary spirit and minstrel ministry flourished. Countless were the hours that she devoted to the OLA Sisters and residents as she lifted spirits bringing joy to others with her music and instruments. Despite the challenges that Sr. Odelia faced as her health declined in recent years, she continued her minstrel ministry of prayer and music in the aftermath of COVID and throughout her transitions from Our Lady of Angels to Story Point and from Story Point to St. Patrick's Residence.

Never one to draw attention to herself, our sister Odelia embraced the Gospel way of life in simplicity and *disponibilidade* – always available to serve God and God's people. No stranger to the loss of loved ones, including her brother Tom in 1993 and her sister-in-law Linda Kresal in 2024, she always trusted in the goodness and providence of the God who called her by name, *Odelia* - – אודליה which in Hebrew means "I will praise and thank my God." As one who truly lived into her name throughout her entire life, may Sister Odelia's memory be a blessing for us all.

Alleluia! Alleluia.

**Alleluia Letter written by
Sister Meg Guider, OSF**

Sister Odelia Kloc, OSF

August 5, 1942—August 27, 2026

<i>Born:</i>	August 5, 1942 — August 27, 2026
<i>Mother:</i>	Estelle Slowik
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 10, 1960
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1961
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1963
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1968
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	August 27, 2026

Ministry History

1965-1968	Teacher: Grade 1, St. Mary. Plainfield, Illinois
1968-1974	Teacher: Grade 1, St. Ludmilla, Chicago, Illinois
1974	Student: Missionary Studies, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1975	Pastoral Ministry/Catechetics: Paróquia São José, San Damiano, Goiânia, Brazil
1976	Teacher: Religion, Catechetics, Grades 5-8, Instituto San Damiano, Paróquia São José, San Damiano, Goiânia, Brazil
1977	Student: CEFEPAL, Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1978-1979	Director of Formation/Teacher: Religion, Grades K-4, Instituto San Damiano, San Damiano, Goiânia, Brazil
1980	Director of Formation/Teacher: Religion, Grades 5-8 Girls, Instituto San Damiano
1981-1984	Co-Principal/Administrator of morning sessions/Pastoral Ministry: Instituto San Damiano
1985	First Regional Councilor/Co-Principal/Administrator of morning sessions: Instituto San Damiano
1986	First Regional Councilor/Pastoral Ministry: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Santa Helena, Goiás, Brazil
1987	Pastoral Ministry/Teacher: Religion and English, Santa Helena School, Santa Helena, Goiás
1988	First Regional Councilor/Pastoral Ministry/Secretary/Teacher: Santa Helena School, Religion and English, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Santa Helena, Goiás, Brazil
1989-1992	Regional Coordinator/Pastoral Ministry: Paróquia San Jorge, San Damiano
1993-1997	Teacher/Parish Ministry: Caseara, Tocantins, Brazil
1997-2000	Student: Nariopa Institute, Boulder, Colorado
2000-2010	Music Therapist: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois
2010-2016	Life Enrichment Coordinator/Music Therapist: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
2016-2021	Life Enrichment Coordinator/Music Therapist/Local Chapter Coordinator: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
2021-2022	Music Therapist: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
2022-2023	In Transition
2023-2024	Ministry of Prayer and Presence: StoryPoint, Romeoville, Illinois
2024-2026	Ministry of Prayer and Presence: St. Patrick's Residence, Naperville, Illinois
<i>Interment:</i>	Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents Louis Kloc and Estelle Slowik, her brother, Thomas Kloc, and her sister-in-law Linda Kresal Kloc, Princeton, Illinois
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her nieces Amanda Fulkerson, Princeton, Illinois, and Melissa Castro, Princeton, Illinois, devoted cousins, friends, and the many elderly residents to whom she brought hope and joy

Rest in Peace, Odelia!