

Sister Marie Loeffler, C.PP.S.

Born: March 18, 1923

Professed: August 10, 1943

Entered into Life: February 21, 2022

Verse on her memorial card:

“I am espoused to Him whom the angels serve. To Him alone I pledge my trust and to Him alone I give u undivided love.”

- The readings of St. Agnes



February 23, 2022

Dear Sisters,

At approximately 6:15 p.m. on Monday, February 21, 2022, our Sister Marie Loeffler was called home to God, experiencing the fullness of the title she gave to her autobiography, *Behold the Face of God*. Though sisters had been praying at her bedside, she slipped quietly away when Sister Nadine stepped out of the room for a few minutes.

Mary Frowine Loeffler was born on March 18, 1923, “into a warm, spirit-filled home on a cold blizzard night” (per her autobiography). She was the seventh of ten children of Joseph and Josephine (Schulte) Loeffler, and she was named for her father’s aunt, our late Sister Frowine Schneider. She grew up on the family farm near Highways K and N in O’Fallon. Even though the nearest public school was just a mile away, her parents valued Catholic education, so she and her siblings walked the five miles to and from Assumption School.

After visiting Sister Frowine from time to time, the convent became Mary Frowine’s dream. After graduating from Assumption, she entered our aspirancy at the age of fourteen. She was received into our novitiate in 1941 and given the name, Sister Alvita. She professed first vows on August 10, 1943. When it was possible to return to her baptismal name, she chose to use the name Marie.

Sister Marie served as a homemaker and cook for fifty years. She credited her mother with teaching her many of the skills she needed for this ministry. Sister Marie served communities of our sisters that ranged in size from three to more than one hundred, from our motherhouse and St. Elizabeth Academy to many small and medium-sized parish convents, to the St. Louis Archbishop’s Residence.

After those fifty years in food service and homemaking, Sister Marie turned to other ministries. She ministered as a teacher aide at the Missouri School for the Blind and served as a caregiver for Kevin Flowers, the brother of our Sister Ginny Flowers. After retirement, she volunteered in various capacities at St Timothy and St. Wenceslaus Parishes in St. Louis. She wrote, “I found out that retirement does not mean rest and relaxation – it means that my days are filled with many different kinds of work. Sometimes in the morning we have our day planned. God changes it with all kinds of surprises.”

Sister Marie always had a ready smile and a positive attitude. Her frequent refrain, “Oh, it is so good to see you!” was so genuine and full of delight that it made each person feel like the most important person in her life. And, that greeting was always followed by an equally genuine, “Thank you so much for coming.”

There was a simplicity and sincerity about Sister Marie. Never one to call attention to herself, she asked that the list of the places where she served be “shortened a lot” for this memorial letter, and she requested that there be no sharing of memories. Alternatively, she asked that all her deceased family members, so precious to her, be listed by name.

Sister Marie was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings, Martha (Paul) Ell, Fred (Agnes) Loeffler, Paul Loeffler, Helen Loeffler, Agnes (Roland) Lott, Johanna (Charles) Watson, Rosella (Henry) Dove, Joseph (Evelyn) Loeffler, and Ralph (Agnes) Loeffler. She is survived by nieces and nephews of several generations. Please keep her family and her faithful friend, Sister Lorraine, close in prayer.

Sister Marie requested cremation, and her cremains will return to St. Joseph Chapel for a wake at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. The celebration of her funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Burial will be in our convent cemetery.

Sister Marie left behind her recipe for living, written in 2012 when she was 89 years of age. “Don’t let yourself get in a rut. Always look for something new and different to make life interesting—even if it’s a new recipe. God is full of surprises. I can vouch for it.” In her 99th year, she still was living this recipe. May she now be experiencing the fullness of God’s surprises as she beholds God’s face.

Sincerely,
Sr. Janice Bader