



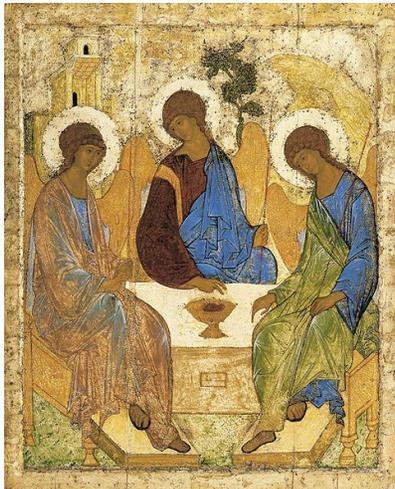
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**O Blessed Trinity,**

**remain with me**

**always!**

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## *Blessings on the Journey*

If you would like to share memories and stay connected with the Sisters, we welcome your visits, correspondence and calls. Our doors and our hearts are open to you!

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To honor the memory of Sister Coletta and her loving concern for others, a donation can be made to the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart to further our works of neighborly love for those in need.

Thank you for enabling Sister to continue doing good on earth through your generosity.

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FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART

*In Loving  
Memory*



.....

*Sister Coletta  
Hennessy, OSF*

1931—2019



**"WHATSOEVER YOU  
DO TO THE LEAST  
OF MY PEOPLE,  
THAT YOU DO  
UNTO ME."  
(MATTHEW 25:45)**

# Sister Coletta

## At Rest December 15, 2019

Sister Coletta Hennessy was born on September 6, 1931, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Thomas and Anne (Hayes) Hennessy, both of whom were born in Limerick, Ireland. She and her twin brother, William, joined their five siblings in this Irish Catholic family. On Sept. 27, 1931, she was baptized and received the name Coletta Claire.

After graduating from high school, Sister noticed in a Catholic newspaper a vocation ad for our congregation. So she sent an inquiry letter to the Motherhouse in Joliet, IL, a place that seemed very far from her native Cleveland. Following that communication, her dream of becoming a Sister began to materialize. Shortly thereafter on June 9, 1949, she began this journey and entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart. After her initial experience as a Postulant, she was received as a Novice on March 19, 1950, and was given the name Sister M. Aurelia. The next two years were focused on learning about our way of life. However, during her second year of novitiate, she was needed to teach grades 1 and 2 at St. Vincent Orphanage in Freeport, IL. She willingly did this for three-fourths of the school year and then returned to the novitiate to complete her formation program. On June 21, 1952, Sister pronounced her First Vows, and on August 3, 1955, professed Perpetual Vows. Through her religious life formation and a college education at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, IL, Sister prepared herself to bring Christ's goodness and

the beauty of knowledge to all she would touch in her various ministries.

Following Profession, Sister spent the next 36 years in the field of education, ministering at both the elementary and high school level. She taught students in grades 3-8 in our schools in Dyer, Garrett, Auburn, Schererville, and Fort Wayne, IN; in Peru, Lockport, Danville, Mokena and Springfield, IL; and in Paradise, CA. She also taught students at Sacred Heart High School on the campus of St. Francis Woods. Sister was a gifted teacher, especially in the area of mathematics, and no one could compete with her ability to calculate as well as to remember dates and figures. Also in a remarkable way, she was able to bring junior high students around to enjoy learning. Besides being a successful teacher, she served over a nine-year period as the school's principal in Schererville and then in Garrett, IN. Sister's Irish wit, friendliness and dedication as an educator endeared her to the students and school families throughout these many years.

Sister Coletta was always open to any possibility the community presented to her. This willingness to help in any area took her in 1991 to St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, IL. There she stepped into the role as Administrative Assistant, becoming an active member on the Leadership Team. In addition, she served on a number of the Medical Center's committees including the Program for Employee Emergency Relief and the Patient Visitation Committee, and was the Administrative Liaison for the Women's Auxiliary. Following this, Sister assumed the position of the Director of Social Accountability and the Community Collaboration Grant Program. In this capacity, she oversaw the distribution of grant monies to health-oriented service organizations in the community. She represented the Medical Center on various local Boards of Directors such as Lambs Fold, Senior Companion Program and United Way of Will County. She also spearheaded our Sisters' presence at community celebrations and events such as galas and awards ceremonies. Her ability to organize projects and programs and to meet looming deadlines was an asset that served her well during these 12 years of ministry in the healthcare field.

In 2003, Sister knew that it was time to retire to the Motherhouse. However, true to her nature, she continued volunteering and kept engaged as long as possible. After a series of health setbacks and hospitalizations in recent years, Sister moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in Joliet, IL, on September 13, 2019. On the morning of December 15, Sister was visited by Sister Death and swept away into Love's embrace. For 70 years, Sister persevered in her religious commitment. During difficult times, she found strength in praying, "Mother Mary, you brought me here. Please give me the grace to persevere." Sister let everyone know how proud she was of her Irish heritage. This happy Irish Franciscan also wanted to let it be known how very proud she was to be a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart. With that Irish grin she would add, "The other things just happened along the way. God has blessed me, and it's been a good life. I'm grateful to the bottom of me Irish heart!"

We extend our sympathy to her sister-in-law Joanne and to her many other relatives and friends. Sister Coletta, although you are no longer a blessing in our lives, you will always be a treasure in our hearts. Until we meet again, "May the God of morning sky light your way. May the God of afternoon welcome you home. May the God of sunset delight your eye. And may the God of perfect love hold you forever in the palm of his hand." (*Prayer adapted from a blessing by Fr. Andrew Greeley*)

Interment: Resurrection Cemetery,  
Romeoville, IL



*The Holy Trinity  
dwells within.*