



John 11:25

“Jesus told her,
I am the resurrection
and the life;
whoever believes
in me, even if he dies,
will live.”

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 Anna Clare 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.



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART

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*In Loving
Memory*



*Sr. M. Anna Clare
Meyer, OSF*

1915—2021



“I KNOW THAT MY VINDICATOR LIVES.”
(JOB 19:25A)

Sister M. Anna Clare

At Rest
January 26, 2021

Sister M. Anna Clare Meyer was born on September 2, 1915, in DeKalb County, IN, to Daniel and Anna (Senn) Meyer. She was the sixth child in a family of eleven children. On September 5, 1915, she was baptized Berniece Catherine Meyer. Her association with our Sisters began when she was transferred in the fourth grade to St. Mary School in Avilla, IN, where our Sisters taught. In the spring of 5th grade, her mother's death greatly impacted her. She now had to lend a hand in doing all that needed to be done in this large family. As she grew, her responsibilities also grew. From this experience she began to learn the value of putting your own interests aside to care for the needs of others.

Sister Petronia Kohlbecker, her 8th grade teacher, started her on the path of discerning a religious vocation. Sister encouraged her to find a quiet place where she could daily pray to know God's dream for her. This she regularly did, but she never seemed to find any clarity regarding her path in life. After graduating from Commercial School, she worked as a housekeeper. However, a feeling of emptiness and a thirst to know more about God consumed her and finally led her to enter our congregation on September 19, 1935 at the age of 20. Following the Postulancy, she was accepted into the Novitiate on March 19, 1936, and received the name Sister M. Anna Clare. By the end of her two-year Novitiate, she knew that this is where God wanted her. So on March 19,

1938, she professed Temporary Vows and Perpetual Vows on March 19, 1941.

For the first several years of her religious life, Sister ministered as an assistant cook at St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin, IL, and St. Francis Hospital and St. Vincent Orphanage in Freeport, IL. Following this, Sister worked in housekeeping at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Danville, IL, and then moved on to be a clinical lab aide, a position she filled for 30 years. She then served part-time in the Apostolate of Presence, taking every opportunity to extend the hands of Jesus to the sick and lonely. She visited the patients, listening to their stories, giving them encouraging words, holding their hands when needed and praying with them. She brought the compassion of Christ to many.

Sister Anna Clare retired in 1990 at the age of 75, but she continued to be very active in the community. At the age of 80, she learned to use the computer and was often seen playing games on it. She joined in all the activities at the Motherhouse and especially enjoyed outreach activities where she participated in preparing treats, coloring eggs, etc. for nearby shelters or soup kitchens. Her hands were always busy—busy for the Lord. Although it was extremely difficult for her to hold a book in her arthritic hands, she was always present and praying with the community as well as singing with the choir. She also continued to write letters to family and friends. Each day she wanted to know the theme of the Gospel reading so that she could share it with someone.

Throughout her life's journey, Sister Anna Clare realized the importance of prayer. She prayed with people and for people, and sometimes in the little acts of kindness she performed, she became God's answer to someone's prayer. She said that for many years she would often pause during the day to say this prayer: "I will not be anxious or worried about anything. O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in thee." Her prayer life was truly the foundation of her life.

In 2010 on the occasion of her 75th Jubilee, Sister said: "I know that the witness, example, prayerfulness, love and guidance of the Sisters who taught me all contributed to my vocation. God was all along speaking to me through their lives. I came to

realize that God doesn't shout. God whispers! No wonder Sister Petronia told us to go to a quiet place."

In 2020, the ring that Sister wore was a symbol of her 85 years of faithfulness to God call. Her frail hands showed the marks of loving service and the passage of time as she also celebrated her 105th birthday. In tribute on Sept. 2, 2020, a brass concert with a band of seven accomplished musicians, assembled by her nephew by marriage, Trombonist Robert Graham, collectively traveled more than 3,000 miles to perform in Queen of Angels Chapel. They joyfully celebrated her life with her Sisters and family, including her 99-year-old brother James. Less than five months later, Sister surpassed the congregation's record of being the eldest Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart to have ever lived. Her engaging spirit was a testimony to her continual desire to live life fully. In January, Sister's health began to significantly decline, and on January 26, she passed into God's loving embrace. We thank her loving caregivers and extend our sympathy to her brother James, to her many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and friends.

Sister Anna Clare, we are most grateful for your witness to enduring faithfulness, and we will miss hearing your daily wish of "Happy Feast Day" which is now silenced forever. However, our deepest wish for you is that your happiness will now be utterly complete in the transforming Heart of Jesus.

Interment: Resurrection Cemetery,
Romeoville, Illinois



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART

*"I can do all things through him
who strengthens me."*

(Philippians 4:13)