



Wisdom 3:9

“... and the faithful shall
abide with him in love:
Because grace and
mercy are with his holy
ones, and his care is
with the elect.”

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 Cherubim 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. Cherubim

Cukla, OSF

1922—2020

“I WALK GUIDED BY YOUR FAITHFULNESS”

(PSALM 26:3B)



Sister M. Cherubim

At Rest August 31, 2020

Sister M. Cherubim Cukla was born on March 11, 1922 in Chicago, IL, to Joseph and Julia (Babiczy) Cukla and was the second youngest of four girls. A major influence in Sister's life was the example of her mother who was gentle, prayerful and trustful of God's providence, especially during the Great Depression.

When very young, Sister had the impression that nuns are TALL. She thought, "God calls tall girls to be nuns. If God had made me tall, I would be destined for the convent. Hence, I am not." However, during an annual retreat at Holy Family High School, she began to wonder about being a Sister and prayed that God's will would be her will. She decided if she saw our congregation's ad in the next *Sunday Visitor*, that would be a sign. So it happened, and on September 5, 1940, she entered the convent in Joliet, IL. When becoming a novice on March 19, 1941, Sister received the name Cherubim—a Choir of Angels described as powerful guardians, especially of God's presence. She maintained that God helped her Guardian Angel, whom she may have overworked, by giving her a choir of angels. After completing a two-year formation program, she professed her First Vows on March 19, 1943, and her Perpetual Vows on March 19, 1946. She

resolved to do the will of God and to lift her hands and heart in consecrated service to God and the Church.

Throughout her religious life many opportunities and challenges were met in the hospitals where she ministered in California and the Midwest. In 1940, Sister earned a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Southern California University in Los Angeles, CA. During her 23+ years as a registered pharmacist, almost half of which were spent at Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center, Joliet, IL, Sister meticulously counted medications when filling prescriptions that would afford people some relief from their pain and illnesses. She carefully typed the prescription label and then packaged the medication for pick-up, often including a little message of loving concern for the recipient.

In 1962, hospital healthcare needed management leadership. So Sister Cherubim enrolled in the Master's Degree Program in Hospital Administration at St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. Upon completing this program, Sister served in an administrative capacity in our various hospitals for nearly eight years. In this role she realized how important it was to have a positive influence and to find creative ways to support and encourage others to give compassionate care in the spirit of Jesus.

Following this, Sister Cherubim responded to a request from the Religious Education Office in Joliet, IL, to be a volunteer teacher at needy parishes. She completed all training programs offered for religion teachers. She then entered a program at the Notre Dame Pontifical Catechetical Institute in Arlington, VA, where she earned a Master of Arts in Religious Studies. This prepared her to serve as Director of Religious Education at St. Mary Immaculate in Plainfield, IL, for four years and then at St. Boniface in Monee, IL, for seventeen years. In this ministry she wished to find the best ways to touch the students' hearts and deepen their love and knowledge of the Catholic faith.

In 2006, Sister Cherubim retired from ministry but continued to assist our senior Sisters, driving them to doctor appointments, taking them shopping or wherever they needed to go until she was no longer able to do so. In 2015 on the occasion of her 75th Jubilee, Sister recalled that all during her religious life, she had not only her special Guardian Angel, but this Choir of Angels as incredible protectors and guides. Each day, Sister received and cradled in her hands at Mass the sacred host and asked her Bridegroom to accompany and support her throughout the coming day. During her daily prayer time, she fingered her rosary as she prayed for the many needs of our congregation and the world. Each evening, she gazed on the hands that had brought goodness to others in so many ways.

After several years of dealing with health issues, God gently called her to wholeness and fullness of life on August 31, 2020. We extend our sympathy to her sister Cecilia and to her many relatives and devoted friends.

Celebrating her 80th Jubilee this year, Sister Cherubim is at peace, knowing that she lived and spread the Good News. She glorified the Lord through her life and various ministries and faithfully offered her love-gift to the Lord. Sister Cherubim, may the angel choirs now welcome you into Paradise, and may your Bridegroom glorify you with a love-gift that lasts forever.

Interment: Resurrection Cemetery,
Romeoville, Illinois



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART

*"Well done, my good
and faithful servant." (Mt. 25:21)*