

SISTER MARY JANET NIEDZWIECKI, formerly Sister Mary Meralda, 80, died in Our Lady of the Angels Convent, Chicago, Illinois, after 59 years in religious life.

Sister Mary Janet was born in Chicago, Illinois on September 8, 1929, seventh of ten children of Francis and Mary Niedzwiecki. At her Baptism in SS. Peter and Paul Church on September 22, 1929, she was given the name Jeanette.

On July, 2, 1950, Jeanette entered the Postulancy of the Felician Sisters and the following year she was given the religious name of Sister Mary Meralda at her Investiture on August 7, 1951. Her Final Profession took place on August 22, 1958. Several years later, she changed her name to Sister Mary Janet.

Sister Mary Janet began her life of ministry as an elementary school teacher in a variety of schools mostly in the Chicago land area. She was an extremely conscientious teacher and the students benefitted greatly from her vigorous instruction. Following twenty-six years of elementary school teaching, Sister Mary Janet became a principal in various Catholic schools for thirteen years.

Having excellent clerical skills, Sister Mary Janet later held a secretarial position at Felician Health Care, Inc.; and was an administrative assistant at Good Counsel High School and Chicago International Charter School, Northtown Campus. Faculty, staff and students greatly appreciated her giving personality and deep concern for their needs.

After retiring from ministry at Chicago International Chapter School, Sister Mary Janet worked part time in the Mother of Good Counsel Province Finance Office. Shortly thereafter, she was diagnosed with brain cancer. In December of 2009, she moved into Our Lady of the Angels Convent for a ministry of prayer and suffering. She was extremely grateful for all that was done for her and suffered in silence while quietly resigning herself to God's will. Never was a word of complaint heard from her.

Sister Mary Janet was a prayerful person who prayed often to Blessed Mary Angela for guidance and support. She was extremely loyal to her family and friends and often thoughtfully remembered them in prayer and gift giving.

God took Sister Mary Janet quietly and peacefully to Himself in the late evening of March 15, 2010. Members of her family and sisters in community, as well as many friends, attended her wake and Mass of Christian Burial on March 19, 2010. Her body was taken for interment to St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, Illinois.