

December 23, 2009

SISTER MARY BONAGRACE PRUSINOWSKI, CSSF, Cook, Missionary

Sister Mary Bonagrace Prusinowski, 100, a Felician Sisters for 78 years, died in the Felician Sisters Health and Wellness Center, Buffalo, NY, on December 23, 2009. The former Marcella Prusinowski was born on January 9, 1909, in Syracuse, NY. She entered the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Felician Sisters in Buffalo on December 26, 1931, and professed perpetual vows on December 28, 1939.

Sister Mary Bonagrace was an accomplished cook. She initially began her ministry at St. Felix Home in Buffalo, NY. During the next few years she served at Transfiguration School, Olean, NY, St. Mary School, New York Mills, NY; Queen of the Most Holy Rosary School, Buffalo, NY; and Infant Jesus Day Care Center, Perry, NY.

From 1941 to 1953, Sister Mary Bonagrace ministered at St. Stanislaus Kostka Convent in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Upon her return, she volunteered to minister in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Province, Coraopolis, PA. She spent the next six years cooking at St. John Kanty Seminary in Erie, PA.

Her love for people, especially the poor, led her to volunteer to work as a missionary in the Brazilian vice-province in 1959. She spent 7 years at Niteroi and 6 years at Curitiba. She loved working with the people. After spending these years in Brazil, she returned to Buffalo and spent many years cooking at the Provincial House of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and at the Infirmary.

In 1983, she embarked on another venture where she directly served the poor. Sister Mary Bonagrace prepared meals at the Mother Angela Soup Kitchen at St. John Kanty Parish in Buffalo. She was always solicitous of the clients, making sure no one went away hungry.

When Sister Mary Bonagrace returned to Villa Maria Infirmary in 1993, she began to assist in food services on a part-time basis. She still ventured to help at the Response to Love Center at St. Adalbert Parish in Buffalo for two years. Throughout the years, Sister Mary Bonagrace was tireless and generous in her service. Because of her failing health, Sister Mary Bonagrace became a patient in Villa Maria Infirmary, now known as the Felician Sisters Health and Wellness Center on August 17, 2005.

Sister Mary Bonagrace is survived by her sister, Wanda Gorska who lives in Poland as well as nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by her parents, the late Alexander and Veronica (Rybka) Prusinowski, her brothers, Anthony and Walter Prusinowski and her sister, Sophie Dlugoziemia.

A wake for Sister Mary Bonagrace will be held at the Felician Sisters Convent on Saturday, December 26, 2009, from 2-7 p.m. and on Sunday, December 27, from 2-5 p.m. An Evening Prayer Service will take place on Sunday, December 27, 2009 at 5:00 p.m., in the Felician Sisters Chapel. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, December 28, at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, NY.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: SM Jean Sliwinski, 892-4141 ext. 203