

SISTER MARY PACIS BUDYSZ, 90, died in Our Lady of the Angels Convent, Chicago, Illinois, after 72 years in religious life.

Sister Mary Pacis was born in Manitowoc, Wisconsin on July 31, 1919, fifth of six children of Frank and Cecilia Budysz. At her Baptism in St. Mary Church on August 1, 1919, she was given the name Dorothy.

Finishing elementary school, Dorothy entered the aspirancy and attended Good Counsel High School. Following her senior year, she sought admission into the Felician Franciscan Order and was accepted, given the religious name of Sister Mary Pacis at her Investiture on August 12, 1938.

Sister Mary Pacis began her life of ministry as a third grade teacher for two years and then went on to nursing school, specializing in anesthesia and surgery. She served in hospitals in Louisiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. She was head of the surgery department at St. Francis Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1956 until 1960, and once again from 1964 through 1980. Her strict standards and policies of cleanliness helped establish the quality reputation of the surgical department at St. Francis Hospital. Sister also served as a nurse in the provincial house infirmary for a number of years. The last fifteen years of her active ministry were spent at St. Mary's Home in Manitowoc, Wisconsin where she served first as a registered nurse and later as the dining room supervisor.

Sister Mary Pacis loved life and celebrated life to the fullest. She was known to bring joy to any gathering with her jokes and special stuffed animal friends and their antics. Affected by a serious stroke in 2005, Sister Mary Pacis became a resident of Our Lady of the Angels Convent. Even though she had some challenges with her speaking, her thinking, and her balance, she could not be stopped in her determination to participate in community recreation and prayer. Sister was a woman in love with her life and in love with her God. As her dementia and her ability to function declined, her love for and closeness to God increased.

God took her quietly and peacefully to Himself in the late morning of January 13, 2010, surrounded by her sisters in community and by a priest from Midwest Hospice Center.

Members of her family and sisters in community attended her Wake Service on January 15, 2010. After the Mass of Christian Burial on January 16, 2010, her body was taken for interment to St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, Illinois.