

Sister Julie Erbert, CSA

Sister Julie (Julia Mary, formerly Angelora) Erbert, 100, died on Tuesday, December 29, 2009, at St. Francis Home where she resided.

One hundred years ago on May 6, 1909, a daughter, Julia Mary, was born to Joseph and Theresa Weber Erbert in Ellis, KS. With five brothers and six other sisters, she grew up on her parents' wheat farm. Educated by the Sisters of St. Agnes at St. Mary's Grade School in Ellis, three of the seven Erbert girls would eventually enter the Congregation. In an age when girls often did not attend high school, Julia spent ten years helping out on the farm before entering the convent in 1933 at the age of 24 and in the midst of the Great Depression. During her years of preparation for life as a Sister, Julia attended St. Agnes High School.



Julia received the name Sister Angelora as a novice and made first profession of vows in 1936. Even though she had would not complete her high school requirements for two years, she was assigned to teach grades one through four at Holy Family School in Monterey, Indiana. Thus began a teaching ministry, first in elementary and later in middle grades, which spanned nearly forty years in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New York, and Illinois. In that time she continued her own education, earning a B.S. Ed. from Marian College and library certification from Fort Hays State College in Hays, Kansas. Sister Angelora, who later returned to a form of her baptismal name as Sister Julie, enjoyed putting on portrayals and plays with her students. Following her teaching career, she served for two years as receptionist at Marian College of Fond du Lac and then worked in parish ministry for the next fifteen years in New London, Wisconsin until her retirement in 1991.

When she retired, Sister Julie continued serving, first as visitor to patients in the hospital in Hays, Kansas, and then as a helper in the adult day care program in Fond du Lac. To her community, she brought with her a love of decorating and making things beautiful, a talent she used for the enjoyment of the Sisters with whom she lived. She was a quiet, private person, who nevertheless loved a good party. Her sparkling eyes and ready smile brightened her 100th birthday party last May, as she enjoyed her favorite dessert, ice cream, with the Sisters and guests. Her love for her family and her compassion are evident in the relationship described by a cousin, a godchild who remembers Sister Julie as always being there for her, especially in the most difficult times. For several years she enjoyed the companionship in retirement of her two blood sisters who had also become Sisters of St. Agnes: Sister Dorissa and Sister Mary. She missed them when they died and longed for the day of their reunion. That day came last Tuesday when she passed quietly into the embrace of God.

Sister Julie is survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; and the Sisters of St. Agnes with whom she lived, prayed, and ministered.

Preceding her in death are her parents, Joseph and Theresa Erbert; five brothers: Leo, Engelbert, Bernard, Joseph, and William; and six sisters: Sister Dorissa Erbert CSA, Sister Mary Erbert CSA, Sophie Nemechek, Agatha Neuburger, Regina Nemechek, and Pauline Windholz.

Visitation: Visitation for Sister Julie will be held on Wednesday, December 30 from 2-4 p.m. at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac. A prayer service will be held at 4 p.m.

Services: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, December 31 at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac. Father Ken Smits, OFM.Cap. will preside. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to the Sisters of St. Agnes Development Office, 320 County Road K, Fond du Lac, WI 54935.

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff of St. Francis Home and of Nazareth Court and Center for their care of Sister Julie in her retirement years.