

Sister Virginia Ann O'Brien, L.C.M.
(Formerly Sister M. Augustine)



Motto: "Let me die to myself; Let me live in You."
Born into life: December 12, 1915
Final Vows: April 28, 1955
Called into eternity: June 13, 2011

Sister Virginia Ann O'Brien was born December 12, 1915 in Ironwood, Michigan to her parents Augustus J., M.D. and Florence O'Brien. Her sister Kathleen "Kay" and brother Donald, now deceased, were dear playmates as mentioned in the forthcoming poem. Sister Virginia is also survived by her nephew John Wilson and nieces, Bridget Wathen, Ann Clark, Kathy Baker and the late Molly O'Brien.

Sister Virginia remained academically prepared and abundantly blessed by the Holy Spirit for the many faceted LCM ministries in which she served within her 62 years of religious life. Four years following Final Vows April 28, 1955 and graduation from LCM Nursing School, Virginia was appointed General Councilor in Rome (1959-65) and assisted in the pharmacy there. In America, Virginia's ministries included Head Nurse in Evergreen Park, IL (55-'56); Assistant Administrator in Cambridge, MA ('56-'59); Mistress of Postulants in Evergreen Park ('65-'66) and sequentially Director of Admissions in Evergreen Park ('66-'74); Calvary Hospital, Bronx, NY ('74-'76); Jasper, IN ('76-'94) and lastly Pastoral Care Volunteer in Evergreen Park in 1994 until she retired.

Throughout the years Sister Virginia maintained a perfect balance in her life, participating in spiritual, social, and community activities and celebrations. It is reminiscent of the balance she learned as a teenager, as told by her family. To strengthen her leg muscles for balance in skiing, Virginia endured the swaying of the train without seeking support. Most recently, on June 8th, Virginia joined the Sisters and Province Staff at the hospital in a birthday celebration for Sister Kay, with whom she lived. From the 6th floor window, she marveled at the progress of the massive tower replacement project becoming a reality. Virginia's spiritual strengths became evermore evident during the past few years when she courageously embraced daily burdens and inconveniences with faith and acceptance. Softly, gently and with a smile she greeted visitors, especially the children so desiring to be with her.

Sister Virginia died quietly and painlessly June 13, 2011 during a three-day diagnostic workup in LCM Hospital in Evergreen Park, having been supported in prayer by her Sisters in community. Virginia's funeral Liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Jim Thompson, OSA in the LCM Hospital Chapel. "Deb" Conley, LCM, friend and homilist, shared a favorite poem from Virginia's unpublished collection "Journey of Hope" titled "My Hand in His." With the soul and song of a psalmist, Virginia praised God's faithfulness throughout her life. We are confident her soul will sing for all eternity.

Submitted by Sister Jean Stickney, LCM for the 2801 Community