

Sister M. Hildegarde Smolukas
August 20, 1913 – November 26, 1976



Secular Name: Melvina
Entrance: August 19, 1929
Place of Birth: East Vandergrift, PA
Parents: Joseph and Amelia
Siblings: 4 sisters

Elementary School: E. Vandergrift Public School
High School: St. Francis Academy Prep

Ministry:

Melvina (Molly) was 15 years of age when she came to St. Francis Preparatory School. Her first year in temporary vows found Sister Hildegarde teaching at St. Joseph School in DuBois.

When requested by Mother David, she took on the role of food preparation because of the need of sisters in dietary. She prepared herself for service as a dietitian by taking a foods course at Mercy College. To enable her to do quantity cooking, she took several workshops conducted by the famous Brother Herman Nacarrelli, CSC. Holy Trinity, Hartford and East Louis were her first mission homes. She then began her service at St. Francis Academy where she introduced a foods class as well as cafeteria service to the growing enrollment of Academy. Sister Hildegarde's Academy services alternated with the service she gave to the Motherhouse.

After 47 years of dedicated service, she spent the last three years of life at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh.

“You are my dwelling place; in You I take my rest.”

