

Sister Mary Ursula Venckus
January 24, 1909 - July 13, 2002

Secular Name: Kazimira(Casimira) Venckus
Entered: Sept., 1922 - Prep Class at Millvale
Aug. 15, 1924 entered novitiate

Place of Birth: Taurage, Lithuania
Parents: Ursula Katakaskaite; Kazimiras Venckus
Siblings: Anne; Walter (Vladas)

Elementary School: Holy Cross School, Chicago
High School: Millvale Prep School
Higher Education: Duquesne University
Degrees: B.A., M.A.
Certification: Teaching

Ministry:

Sister M. Ursula's first assignment at age 17 was to teach 6th grade at St. Casimir School in Pittsburgh for one year. For the next three years, she gave direction and guidance to "prep" girls who aspired to become religious. Two years later she was "Mistress of Novices" for three years, introducing would-be sisters to the Rule, Constitution, and practices of our Franciscan congregation.

In 1944, Sister Ursula was elected to the General Council and again served as Mistress of Novices for six years. She returned to the high school classroom as teacher for the next 17 years. At Canevin High she taught World History for two years. She did a ten-year stint in the Language Department of Boyle High School in Pittsburgh. Her final teaching days found her once again in Hartford, CT, for five years at South Catholic High School.

In summary, Sister M. Ursula spent 21 years as teacher, 18 years as Principal, 3 years directing Prep girls, 3 years directing the SFA residents, 9 years as Mistress of Novices,, and 6 years as Councillor. In 1979 Sister, in failing health, returned to the Motherhouse where she contributed to other community ministries, serving as a tutor in our RTR center, acting as a gracious receptionist, and in the ministry of prayer. She spent a few years in Resurrection Parish in West Mifflin doing community services before returning to the Motherhouse in 1995. Our Provident God continued to be with her as she experienced the loss of physical strength.

***"My God, you know that the only thing I've ever wanted
is to love You." (St. Therese of Lisieux)***

