

Sister M. Michele Garas, OSF

April 3, 1942 – December 11, 2018

Secular Name: Ausrele Vitalija Garliauskas
Birth: April 3, 1942
Entrance: September 8, 1963
Parents: Erna and Stasys
Siblings: Rita, Stanley, Jonas, Regina, Lucija
Elementary School: St. Anthony Grade School
High School: Holy Redeemer, Detroit MI
Higher Education: Holy Family College, Manitowoc WI;
LaRoche College, Pittsburgh PA;
Carlow University, Pittsburgh PA,
B.S.Ed. ; Duquesne University,
Pittsburgh PA

Ministry:

“I was born happy, a dancer, a singer.” Tracing her early years, Ausrele wrote that after graduating from Holy Redeemer High School in Detroit, she was a dental and medical assistant from 1959 – 1963. She said: “The desire to join the convent attracted me and frightened me at the same time.” It was only after her 21st birthday that she finally decided: “my destination – convent.” In 1963, she entered the community and received the name Sister Mary Michele.

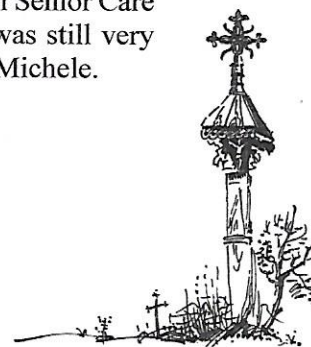
After graduating from Carlow University Sister Michele began her 24 years of teaching primary grades in Moon Run, New Kensington, Mahanoy City, Grand Rapids, Michigan and even a short time in her home parish of St. Anthony in Detroit. She always said she loved teaching her little first and second graders because they were more her size!

In 1992, Sister Michele returned to her birthplace in Utena Lithuania because she felt that she could contribute to rebuilding the Church after the fall of the Iron Curtain. She taught in the same school that her father had studied and eventually was its director. She taught religion and English classes and was the Spiritual Director of the school. She also organized sacramental programs for parents and catechists and visited poor families providing them with food, clothing and love.

Sister Michele returned to the motherhouse in 2012 because of her health needs. She served as receptionist, sacristan and assistant to the coordinator. Sister Michele was also an artist and had a lovely singing voice.

She spent her last few years at Presbyterian Senior Care While her memory had faded her smile was still very much a part of her. Rest well dear Sister Michele.

*I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. ~Psalm 104*



Lithuanian Wayside Cross-
Sketched by Sister Michele

