

Sister M. Dolorita Butkus, OSF

September 11, 1922 - December 21, 2019



Secular Name: Albina Amelia Marie
Birth: September 11, 1922
Entrance: January 20, 1941
Parents: Joseph and Lenora
Siblings: Fran and Joe
Elementary School: Sts. Peter and Paul, Elizabeth, NJ
Higher Education:

Ministry:

Sister Dolorita began her ministry teaching kindergarten through grade 4 for only three years. Her ministry then changed as the community began to enter into the field of health care. She pursued registered nurse training and further studies in anesthesia. She worked at Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon, IL as a registered nurse, anesthesiologist and Director of Respiratory Therapy for the next 24 years.



In 1975 Sister Dolorita trained for and was licensed in Pastoral Care and served as Director of this department in our two hospitals and four others in several states for another 15 years.

In lieu of a trip for her 50th Jubilee, Sister asked to be a hermit at Mount St. Francis in upper New York State. This was a pretty rugged existence of tramping through the snow, collecting her own firewood and fetching water. Sister Dolorita loved the experience and often got starry-eyed when she spoke of it.

In 1992, at the age of 70, after the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe, she volunteered to pioneer our newly established mission in Lithuania. Sister's greatest legacy was her role as co-founder of St. Clare Hospice in Utena in 1996, where the staff continues to provide terminally ill patients with professional and loving care in their final days.

In 2005, Sister Dolorita becoming increasingly aware of not only the sick but the hungry in Lithuania and established a food pantry. Supported by a grant from Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, she and Sister Michele Garas regularly distributed over 300 bags of groceries to the elderly, families and those struggling with their day to day living.



In 2014, Sister Dolorita moved to Presbyterian Senior Care for health care assistance. She then began her final ministry of prayer and presence. She was always ready to hear both residents and staff concerns and requests for prayer. She never lost her nursing or pastoral skills as she continued to use her gifts there, often making recommendations to the staff for better care and more efficient ways of doing things. Sister Dolorita continued to use those gifts even when she was bedridden during her final days.

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. ~Psalm 23