

Sister Lillian Yurksaitis, OSF

February 20 1932 – October 3, 2021



Secular Name: Lillian Patricia
Birth: February 20, 1932
Parents: Catherine and Joseph
Siblings: Catherine and Joseph, died as infants.
Joseph, Raymond, Albert, Vincent
Entrance: September 8, 1954
Elementary School: Public School
Higher Education: B.S. Ed.; M.S. Ed - Duquesne Univ

Ministry:

Upon sharing with her mother that she wanted to become a nun, Lillian's mother convinced her to wait until she turned 22. After she graduated high school she had a conversation with her pastor and he introduced her to Sister Innocenta who explained the life of St. Francis of Assisi to her. She was convinced that religious life was where she would come to know God. On September 8, 1954, Lillian entered our community and received the name Sister Kateri the *Lily* of the Mohawks as she would joke.

After three years in formation Sister Kateri was assigned to teach first graders at Holy Trinity in Moon Run. The next seven years were spent teaching 2nd and 3rd grade. After Vatican II Sister Kateri returned to her baptism name and became Sister Lillian. In 1965 she was asked to go to Brazil to teach English as a second language. She spent three years there and mastered the Portuguese language.

Sister Lillian taught primary grade students for the next 20 years with a year as infirmary aide and laundress. She often spoke of the poverty she saw in Brazil and her desire to serve the poor in some way and so she began volunteering at Bethlehem Haven, an overnight women's shelter in downtown Pittsburgh. Later she also volunteered at a women's shelter in Wilmington Delaware. She felt that these women had more to teach her about life than she had to offer them.

In 1994 Sister Lillian returned to the Motherhouse to serve as Assistant to the Assisi Hall Director. She did many Motherhouse services such as transportation coordinator, driver and postal clerk. She also became very adept with computer skills especially banner making. Every motherhouse celebration would have her famous wall-long banner announcing the day!

In 2014 Sister Lillian was among the first Sisters missioned to the Presbyterian SeniorCare Assisted Living facility, Westminster Place. There she had her final ministry of prayer and presence.



The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom should I be afraid. ~Psalm 27