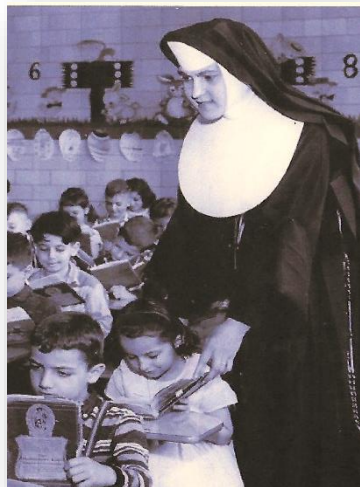


Sister Mary Edward Urban, OSF

November 22, 1932 - July 7, 2024



Secular Name: Aldona Cecelia Urban
Birth: November 22, 1932
Parents: Anthony and Anne
Siblings: Bertha and Edward
Entrance: February 1, 1952
Higher Education: Duquesne University, Bachelor's Degree

Ministry:

Aldona Cecilia Urban was born in Lithuania but her parents, moved to Cleveland Ohio shortly after her birth. Her sister Bertha was born five years later and her little brother Edward was born in 1942. Just eight years old, Edward died in 1950. It was Sister Edward's love for him that she asked for his name as a religious.

After meeting our Sisters at St. George Grade School in Cleveland, Sister Edward already expressed an interest in joining the Congregation of her teachers. After she graduated from Notre Dame Academy in June 1951, she decided to enter our community in February 1952.

Her very first assignments were to primary grade children at Grand Rapids, Elizabeth NJ, New Kensington and her final year at St. Valentine. After teaching her favorite little ones for just nine years, Sister Edward was asked to minister with Sisters in Brazil. She spoke of how difficult this request was for her, but her belief in "Going where Providence sends us" was clear. Sister Edward ministered in Brazil for 47 years.

During her years in Brazil, she mastered the language and learned the culture so that she could serve as an English teacher in several of our schools. She served as the principal at the Pio XII's Escolinha (little school) and then as a Language Assistant there. In the far north of Brazil, Sister Edward was successful in getting a diocesan school accredited so students could pursue further education. Her last 14 years in Brazil were dedicated to pastoral work at Our Lady of Providence Parish in São Paulo.

Her service in Brazil ended when her sister Bertha was sick and needed her assistance in the United States. Once Bertha's health improved, Sister Edward returned to the Motherhouse to serve as sacristan, office assistant and volunteer in our Franciscan Child Day Care Center. She had completed her circle of life returning again to the little ones she loved, reading stories and teaching them songs.

As her health declined, Sister Edward needed more assistance as she could no longer live alone. Sister Edward moved to Brookdale in 2023, a Senior living facility, first in independent living, but then moved to personal care. Her Franciscan presence was experienced by both the Brookdale staff and the



*For unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit." ~John 12: 24*