



SISTER

M. JOSEPHINE IFFERT, P.H.J.C.



September 15, 1925 – April 8, 2017

Professed Vows June 24, 1946

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Sister Josephine, formerly known as Sister Concetta, was born Josephine Iffert on September 15, 1925, the daughter of Kilian and Rosalia (Kuenstler) Iffert. She grew up with her siblings Anne (Uebinger), Rev. Urban, Katie (Kuhl), Pauline (Kessler), Rosalia (Rudolphi), Bertha (Dunnigan), and Leo in the Holy Cross Parish.



Sister Josephine entered the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Community as a postulant on September 8, 1943, and professed her first vows on June 24, 1946.

Sister Josephine studied at Ancilla College in Donaldson, Indiana earning an Associate's Degree as well as Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois where she received her B.S. and M.A. in Education.

Sister Josephine spent 28 years of loving service as teacher and principal in elementary schools at St. Augustine School in Hecker, Illinois; Angel Guardian Orphanage in Chicago, Illinois; St. John School in Belleville, Illinois; and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Hammond, Indiana. After completing six years as a Provincial Team Member in the PHJC Community and the Corporate Ministry Program in St. Louis, Missouri, her ministry took a turn. Sister Josephine served as a Pastoral Associate in Davenport, Iowa, and as a staff member of a Personal Growth Center in Cicero, Illinois. She also ministered to people with AIDS through Harbor Home and was Director of an RCIA program in Berwyn, Illinois. Later, she received much joy interacting with people who came for services at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, where she ministered as Stier Hostess for thirteen years.

Sister Josephine then shared her gentle spirit and welcoming presence as part of a supportive community of Sisters at Catherine's Cottage and throughout the entire Center at Donaldson.

Sister Josephine proudly stayed a farm girl her whole life. She said, "Nature always brought great joy to me from childhood to my elder years. I delighted in gardening, and love to see things grow, especially my relationship with God."

Sister Josephine passed away on April 8, 2017, at St. Joseph Health in Plymouth, Indiana. A funeral liturgy was held on April 12, 2017, with burial in the Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Donaldson, Indiana.