

SISTER M. CORINNE OMLOR
May 24, 1906 - September 5, 2007

Cecilia Adalaide Omlor, daughter of Hubert and Cora Anne Poel, became a member of the Omlor family on May 24, 1906 in Waynesburg, PA. She was the youngest of four children—two boys and two girls. She was blest to be born into a musical family with a mother and father who made it possible for their four children to receive formal training in playing an instrument. This decision of their parents shaped the future of Sister Corinne and Sister Harriet

Another gift given to these children by their mother was her sister who was a Sister of St. Joseph in Philadelphia. Mother Sacred Heart was very close to the family and kept contact with them through her frequent letters. She had a special relationship with the girls and constantly encouraged them to consider becoming a sister—a Sister of St. Joseph, of course.

Sister Corinne's sister, Helen, was fifteen months older so she graduated from high school a year ahead of her little sister, Cecilia. She decided to attend Seton Hill College where she met our now deceased Sister Carmelita. Sister became her mentor and Helen learned to love the sisters and was so impressed by their ministries that at the end of her first year she decided to enter the Sisters of Charity.

While this was going on at Seton Hill, Cecilia was busy studying and enjoying being a teenager. Cecilia had a good friend who was in her first grade religion classes. The friendship had deepened over the years and they shared their school days together. Sister Corinne has told us that one day her friend came to her home with a big book. She had received this book from her blood sister, Sister Miriam Francis, who was a Sister of Charity. The book had information about all the religious orders of women in the United States. They studied the book and became interested in religious life. They decided to choose a community that seemed to suit their personalities and talents. They finally chose the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. These two friends who had met each other at the ripe old age of six; who went through their school years together; who graduated from high school together; would walk through the convent doors together with Cecilia's big sister, Helen, on September 8, 1925.

Sister Corinne received a BA degree with a major in violin and a minor in piano. For fifty years she taught violin and piano and also spent time teaching in elementary schools in the dioceses where the Sisters of Charity ministered. She was highly respected by the parents and her co-workers, and loved by the students she taught.

During the summer the two sisters would visit their brother and his family in Syracuse, New York. Some of those children who shared that fun with the sisters are here with us this morning—Anne from Seattle, Margo from Syracuse, and Margo's godchild, Shaneek, who is very much a part of Margo's family. Anne told me that they never went on vacation, so each summer they waited with great anticipation and excitement for the sisters to arrive. Their visit was the high point of the summer.

It seemed that the sisters enjoyed helping with the housework. This gave the children's mother some time for herself. The sisters cleaned; took care of the laundry; and even did some of the cooking. Anne said that when the chores were completed the sisters spent countless hours playing games with the children. It seems that a good time was had by all when the sisters came to visit.



In 1967, Sister Corinne was sent to Arizona where she spent twenty happy years. She returned to Assumption Hall in 1986, to retire. As she always did she made herself very useful. She had charge of the small post office at Assumption Hall. She worked in the craft room making all kinds of pretty things to sell at our annual Christmas sale. She took Communion to the sick and went as a companion with frail sisters to appointments with doctors.

In 1998, an article about Sister Corinne was published in one of the copies of our publication, *Celebration*. The article, written by Sister Susan Jenny, was entitled *There's Nothing Still About Sister Corinne's Life*. Sister Susan wrote, "The scene looks like a still-life arrangement: a violin with a fine linen handkerchief draped over the delicate neck. THIS IS NO STILL-LIFE, BUT THE ROOM OF Sister Corinne. Now 92 years old, she and her music are still very alive." Sister Corinne explained, "I play the fiddle everyday. If I don't play it every day it won't retain its tune. Like my violin, I must stay active everyday so that I can keep in tune and continue serving the Lord."

Sister Corinne took seriously her ministry of prayer. She prayed the rosary several times a day for peace, for vocation, for her family, for our employees and for all who ask for our prayers. She also took upon her self what she called "the ministry of the pen." She wrote to several men in prison. They wrote to her in return, telling her about their daily lives, their families and even confessed on paper. Sister was really their confessor. She heard stories of forgiveness, of their experiences with God, of conversions and of their dreams of how they could make a better life for themselves when they would be free again.

Sister Corinne was an avid tennis player in her youth and I am told she was a worthy adversary. She also loved walking outdoors. She never lost her love for physical activities. When we opened our therapy pool at Caritas Christi she and Sister Rose Angela were among the first to sign up to attend classes. They were faithful to their commitment for several years until their energy level began to diminish. She also learned to play pool at the adult day care center. She became very good at it and often defeated the gentleman who taught her.

Sister Corinne was a real live person like the rest of us. Now she is in heaven where she has longed to be. We can say that we have another saint in heaven. As we end these memories of her life here on earth, let us honor her by praying this short litany. Please respond, pray for us.

Sister Corinne, ever faithful
Sister Corinne, ever peaceful
Sister Corinne, ever loyal
Sister Corinne, ever loving
Sister Corinne, ever gentle
Sister Corinne, ever lovable

O loving God, we send our sister home to you, to a place of everlasting love to behold your holy face forever. May she ever rest in peace.

Funeral Liturgy Reflection
Sister Harold Ann Jones
September 8, 2007