

December 14, 2009

SISTER MARY DOLORIA PIORKOWSKI, *Teacher*

Sister Mary Doloria, 90, a Felician Sister for 71 years, died at the Felician Sisters Health and Wellness Center, Buffalo, NY, on Monday, December 14, 2009. The former Elizabeth Piorkowski was born on July 8, 1919 in Erie, PA. She entered the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Felician Sisters in Buffalo, NY, on July 8, 1938, and professed perpetual vows on August 12, 1946. She was a member of Holy Trinity Parish, Erie, PA. She graduated from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy, Buffalo, NY, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Education degree at Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA, and a Master of Science in Education degree at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. She was permanently certified by the State of New York to teach Nursery, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-6.

Sister Doloria began her ministry as an elementary Catholic school teacher in the Diocese of Buffalo in 1940. The following year, she went to St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, where she served as a parish minister for 9 years. She returned to Buffalo to resume teaching in 1950. Three years later, Sister Doloria responded to the call to serve in the ministries of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Province in Coraopolis, PA. She spent the next 14 years teaching in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

Upon her return to Buffalo, Sister Doloria taught at various Catholic elementary schools. She loved children and prepared very conscientiously for teaching always challenging her students to learn. In her 42 years of full-time teaching, she spent two years at St. Mary School, New York Mills, NY, in the Diocese of Syracuse.

In 1985, Sister Doloria began her involvement in Education on a part-time basis. She served as a tutor, part-time teacher, remedial reading teacher and librarian at several Catholic schools in Buffalo and at Holy Trinity School in Erie, PA. She became a member of the Provincial House Convent in 2000 where she assisted others in various ways. Because of failing health, she moved to the St. Francis Residence Convent six years later. In July 2009, she became a patient in the Felician Sisters Health and Wellness Center where she died 5 months later.

Sister Doloria is survived by her brother, Henry Piorkowski, nieces and a nephew, her cousin SM Rachel Krauza, CSSF, and her second cousin, SM Virgilyn Grabowski, CSSF. She was predeceased by her parents the late Peter and Catherine (Dzialo) Piorkowski, her brother, Thaddeus Piorkowski, and her sisters, Angeline Prosocki, Josephine Wedzik, and SM Evantia Piorkowski, CSSF.

A wake for Sister Doloria will be held at the Felician Sisters Convent on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 from 2-5 p.m. An Evening Prayer Service will take place on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the Felician Sisters Convent Chapel. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, NY.

FOR FURTHER INFORMANTION PLEASE CONTACT: SM Jean Sliwinski, 892-4141 ext. 203