Sister Josephine was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters Regina Schultz, Dolores Etzel, Louise Waldrock, and Monica Gaffke; and her brothers Anthony and Felix. She is survived by her sister, Rita Hudak of Mount Angel; and her brother, Edward Schultz of Garibaldi, Oregon, as well as many nieces and nephews, cousins, many friends and her monastic community, the Benedictine Sisters of Mount Angel.

A Vigil was celebrated in the monastery chapel in Mount Angel, 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 15, and a Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, January 16, at 10:30 a.m., followed by her burial in the monastery cemetery.

Sister Josephine Schultz, O.S.B.
(Agnes Marie)
Queen of Angels Monastery
Mt. Angel, Oregon

Born - September 23, 1922
Baptized - October 1, 1922
First Professed - February 10, 1941
Perpetual Profession - August 10, 1944
Entered Eternal Life - January 9, 2018
Sister Josephine Schultz
(1922 - 2018)

Sister Josephine Schultz, O.S.B., a member of Queen of Angels Monastery, died January 9, 2018, at the Providence Benedictine Nursing Center, Mount Angel, Oregon. She was 95 years old.

Sister Josephine, originally from Windsor, North Dakota, was the sixth of nine children born to Matthias and Martha (Wanzek) Schultz. In 1936, to escape the dust bowl conditions in North Dakota, her family moved to Oregon, settling in the farming community of Canby. Two years later the Schultz family moved to a farm between Mount Angel and Silverton. Sister Josephine graduated from Mount Angel Academy and professed her vows on February 10, 1941, at the age of 18.

During her eight decades as a Benedictine, Sister Josephine Schultz has had three different but highly distinguished careers. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Mount Angel College in 1948 and then served as an elementary-school teacher/principal for 20 years. In 1962, she received a master's degree in library science from Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles, California, and began to work as a librarian. She served as the librarian at Mount Angel College for 10 years and then worked at the Oregon State Library until 1981. Counting the monastery library years, Sister Josephine served as a librarian for over 40 years. In 1987, she received certification in pastoral care and served as a chaplain at Mount St. Joseph's Care Center in Portland. From 1989 until her retirement in 1993, she served as pastoral services director at the Benedictine Nursing Center in Mount Angel.

Sister Josephine, noted for her low-key demeanor, her ability to support others, her leadership, and her compassion for others, served as an assistant to the prioress on two different occasions. In her semi-retirement years, she was a vital, energetic member of Queen of Angels, taking care of the monastery library, providing hospitality to guests and visitors, taking shifts at washing dishes, handling the switchboard, and completing a nine-year stint on the Benedictine Foundation board of directors. She also served on the Monastic Council and the Shalom Prayer Center Advisory Council. She loved to read, play cards and board games, work on her crocheting and tatting (“tats” tiny flower shaped out of thread, using a “shuttle” and some mighty good eyesight), and plant a few peas in the garden each spring. Sister Josephine was as accurate as ever when she said, “As a Sister one never retires.”

In 2015, due to health issues, Sister Josephine moved to the Providence Benedictine Nursing Center, where she had served as Chaplain and Director of Pastoral Service from 1990 - 1993. There she continued to minister to other residents, her family, friends and her monastic community by her humble acceptance of her health condition and her dedication to prayer. Sister Josephine maintained a very positive outlook on aging and life throughout her retirement years.

At her 70th Jubilee on February 10, 2011, she said, “I am in awe and gratitude for how God has continued to work in my life and has sustained me during these 70 years.”

Sister Josephine has been at Queen of Angels Monastery for 79 years, blessing her community with her leadership, enthusiasm, generous service, love of monastic life and prayer, and perseverance. She loved being in the beauty of the Northwest, being an avid back packer and hiker. As a young sister, she climbed the 1893 giant sequoia, planted in front of the monastery. She enjoyed a trip to Europe with Sister Theresa Henscheid, traveling to the Benedictine communities of Engelberg and Maria Rickenbach in Switzerland and to Rome, Italy.

Sister Josephine suffered gradual diminishment of old age and died peacefully in the Providence Benedictine Nursing Center at 5:50 p.m., on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

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