

## Canticle of Mary

My soul proclaims the Lord, my God.  
My spirit sings God's praise,  
Who looks on me and lifts me up,  
That Gladness fill my days.

All nations will now share my joy.  
For Gifts God has outpoured.  
This lowly one has been made great  
I magnify the Lord.  
For those who fear the Holy One:  
God's mercy will not die,  
Whose strong right arm puts down  
the proud, and lifts the lowly high.

God fills the hungry with good things,  
and sends the rich away.  
The promise made to Abraham and  
Sarah, is filled to endless day.

Then, let all nations praise our God,  
The Father and the Son,  
The Spirit blest who lives in us,  
While endless ages run.



*Life's journey is to  
God's eternal Day . . .  
For in Life and in death,  
We belong to the Lord!"*



**Sr. Hedwig Cecilia Pawluc, FMM  
(M. Konstanta)**

**Born: Nov.23, 1913  
Entered: Dec.13, 1933  
Novitiate: June 13, 1934  
First Vows: June 13, 1936  
Final Vows: June 13, 1942  
Born to Eternal Life: 4.12 2008**

## Early Years

Sister Hedwig was the oldest of four children born in Providence, RI to devout parents, Nikodem and Anna Pawluc.

She spent most of her girlhood years in Rhode Island and Connecticut.

She was a piano student of a famous Russian Composer and Conductor, who wished her to be an orchestra accompanist of the Providence Symphony, but because of a fractured wrist she was unable to undergo the long hours of practice necessary.

Religious life then became her goal as a fulfillment of her deepest yearnings. She had also a special devotion for the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## God's Call:

She attributes her religious vocation to her devout parents and a fervent neighborhood priest who acted as her spiritual director. When she was twenty, Hedwig entered the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at Holy Family Novitiate, N. Providence.

## Missionary Life:

After her first profession June 13, 1936, in Holy Family Chapel, Fruit Hill, she was sent to Divine Providence Community 45th Street in New York. She taught art to the

Mission Circle and acted as the community receptionist. She also served as a scout director. In addition to her ministry of music, she was a gifted artist. Her work in art took form in portraits, calligraphy and the ornamentation of vestments and accessories.

Three years later, Hedwig was sent to the St. Anthony's Community Cincinnati, Ohio where she taught classroom music and orchestra in St. Anthony's School. Her mission for the apostolate was gratified by visits to the homes of her neighbors in this underprivileged segment of society.

Another highlight during this part of her life was the study of Gregorian Chant with Fr. De Deo, O.F.M., liturgist and composer, then teaching at Cincinnati's Teachers' College.

St. Francis Community, Roslyn, NY was her next mission sending. She served as a licensed practical nurse in St Francis Sanitarium now called St Francis Hospital, the Heart Center. One of sister's happiest remembrances is with the little heart patients in Sacred Heart Unit.

She spent a year in O.L. of Charity Community, Bell Street Providence to convalesce after an illness. Her time was given to doing fine embroidery as well as painting.

She was then sent to Fruit Hill to replace the FMM organist who had been sent in mission to the Philippines. She participated in

community service with stitching and folding the Annals that were printed in the FMM Mission Press at Fruit Hill and washed pots and pans part of the morning.

Several months after St. Clement's Eucharistic Shrine was opened, Hedwig was sent there to be organist and choir director and she remained here for twenty-one happy years. As a skilled organist, she was able to play the magnificent- 5 keyboard organ. She also helped in the sacristy and on occasion, was privileged to assist with the Byzantine Liturgy which gave her knowledge and experience in this beautiful and intricate Rite. Her other works again included painting and calligraphy. In 1966, Sr. Hedwig returned to Fruit Hill where she served as organist and did art work for the gift shop. She did hand printing on documents and citations.

Another highlight of Sr. Hedwig's life was her pilgrimage to Rome with a group of FMMs. While there, she managed to discover the road and a driver to take her to visit the famous church, Santa Maria in Aracoeli so as to see the bambino. She also received permission from Sr. Alma Dufault to play the organ in St. Helen's Chapel.

Her last mission sending was to Ein Karim residing in St. Antoine Residence. This strong, forceful woman became, in her last days, a gentle lamb who went peacefully to meet her God.