

## 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.

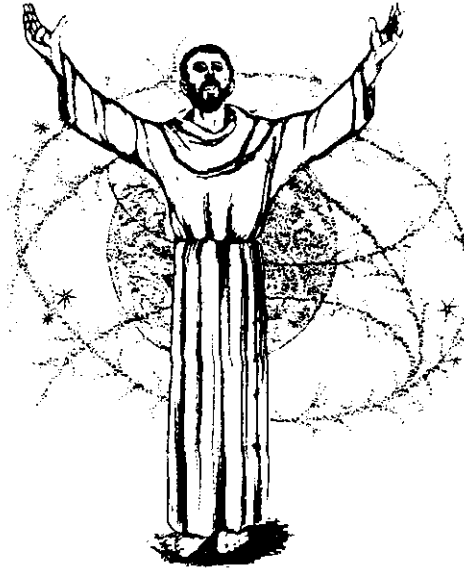
All nations will now share my joy.  
For Gifts God has outpoured.  
This lowly one has been made great  
I magnify the Lord.

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!"*



**Josephine J (Jerry) Iozzo, fmm  
M. Restituta**

**Born: June 7, 1930  
Entered: March 19, 1949  
Novitiate: Sept. 17, 1949  
First Vows: Sept. 17, 1951  
Final Vows: Sept 17, 1954  
Born to Eternal Life: 3.28.2009**

## Early Years

At fourteen years of age, a family move resulted in her passing a church on the way to a new school. She took the advice of her Sunday school teacher - and one which her own mother had recommended over the years — to “make a visit” whenever passing the church building. These daily visits to the Blessed Sacrament awakened in her a sense of God’s presence, and a meeting of God as a person, whom she described as “one who knows and listens, who loves and who in turn speaks to me.” She experienced this as a grace, in which God in a sense “invaded” her life. She further described this experience as “a kind of “falling in love” which transformed her way of looking at so many things.” She began attending daily Mass and reaching out to those in need.

## God’s Call

In her own words, she wrote of her early experience: “The ‘seeds’ that had been sown during this period nurtured a relationship with the Lord that has remained throughout the years. I do go back from time to time to this ‘peak experience of God’, and recognize God’s free gift and call to me at this time. At eighteen, after prayer and searching, she entered the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in North Providence.

Thus began a lifelong journey with Jesus as companion and friend. Her focus was to “do the will of God” and to “walk with the Lord”.... learning to integrate and balance prayer and work as a life-long struggle

## Missionary Life

In 1959, she was called to Rome where she remained long enough to see the election of Pope John XXIII. She had the privilege of being one of a group of departing missionaries who received the missionary cross from the hands of the newly elected Pope in a departure ceremony for many missionaries of several congregations. This was held in St. Peter’s in Rome. Then, she was sent in Mission to Malaysia. For several months, she served as the superior of Assunta Convent and hospital. She then traveled to Indonesia where she taught for several years in an International School in Jakarta. She also served as the superior of her community. Indonesian religious were her concern as well as the Indonesian school at Djakarta. She persuaded the foreign pupils to register willingly at the native language school, to the great benefit of all concerned.

From 1968 to 1975, she served as the Provincial Superior of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Her duties included journeying around the islands of Flores, Sumatra and Java, as well as Singapore and the Malay Peninsula.

After completing her terms in leadership she had a sabbatical of Theology and Spirituality courses in Regina Mundi, Rome.

In 1977 she was appointed as the superior of St. Helen’s community in the Generalate of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Rome. In 1979, she was elected Provincial Superior of the United States. She writes of “feeling quite incompetent and afraid.

But after guidance, she accepted it with the Lord assuring her “that it was all His work anyway!” These years as provincial tested her faith: “the experience of weakness and facing difficult situations has been part of my paschal mystery experience with the Lord. The happy and successful moments have been there as well.”

After completing her terms, she was appointed as the directress of Bethany Renewal House in N. Providence. She directed retreats and gave spiritual direction. She also assisted in the Mission Resource Center. In 1998, she served as the local coordinator of Trinity Community in North Providence.

Jerry described herself as a “kind of troubadour, on the road, finding the Lord in moments of prayer, meditation, life, companions, and situations! “

During the last years of Jerry’s life when she had some time for resting and relaxing, she wrote: “the Lord continues to let me find Him in prayer, in silence, in joy, asking me to ‘let go’ of the past, and to ‘rest in Him’, confident of finding him in new ways, and of deepening the relationship with the one who for me is ‘center of my life’ — the ‘God of beauty, of gentleness, of love, of compassion!’ The Franciscan praises of God as Trinity, and Beauty, and Love - are strongly felt at this time.”

She was a true daughter of Bl. Mary of the Passion, of Francis and of Mary. All remember Jerry as being warm, gentle and loving. No one ever heard her speak a harsh word.

((N.B. Jerry’s own autobiography was used as sources for this necrology.)