

## 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.

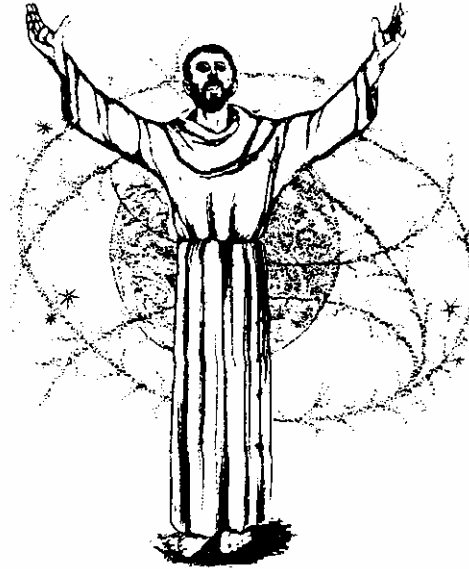
God fills the hungry with good things,  
and sends the rich away.  
The promise made to Abraham and  
Sarah, is filled to endless day.

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

O God, come to our assistance.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father . . .



*“When the time of our particular sunset comes, our thing . . . our accomplishments won't really matter a great deal, but the Charity and Care with which we have loved others will speak with vitality of the great Gift of Life we have been for others.”*



**Marie Germaine Dianna Leblanc, FMM  
M. Magnentia**

**Born: July 31, 2009  
Entered: Dec. 6, 1930  
Novitiate: June 13, 1931  
First Vows: 1933  
Final Vows: Dec. 4, 1936  
Born to Eternal Life: 12/8/04**

## Early Years

Germaine was the 5th child of 17 children born to her devout parents, Napoléon and Eva Leblanc. When Germaine was a young child, her family moved to Canada.

## God's Call

Germaine entered the Institute in Quebec at the age of 21. After pronouncing her first vows, she was sent to St. Anne de Beaupré where she did gardening.

## Missionary Life

She was sent in mission to N.D. de l'Esperance, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, July 6, 1935, where she cared for children.

After pronouncing her final vows, in Holy Family Chapel, Fruit Hill, she joined others of her sisters traveling all over the United States selling the handwork made in the Missions, thus obtaining the funds necessary to support the missionary work of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary here and abroad. This was the first of many mission sendings, which crisscrossed the United States. Germaine was one of the most mobile and disponible FMMs in the USA.

Ever ready and obedient to being sent wherever she was needed in service to her sisters, mostly as cook

or receptionist, her missions in the USA included: twice in N.D. de l'Esperance, Woonsocket; twice in Fruit Hill; three different times in N.D. de la Charité, Bell St; twice in Holy Family, Fruit Hill; twice in McMahan Shelter, New York; Our Lady of Millbrook, Millbrook, New York; twice in St. Clement's, Boston; Twice in St. Anthony of Padua, Cincinnati; St. Francis, San Francisco; Our Lady of the Eucharist, Brighton; Hotel Alverne, St. Louis; Divine Providence, New York; Nazareth Novitiate, North Providence and finally in O.L. Queen of Peace.

Wherever there were children she was involved in their care along with other Community services as receptionist, laundry, sewing and later in the FMM Skilled Nursing Facility teaching arts and craft.

An energetic, totally self-forgetful person she always said "yes" quickly and wholeheartedly to whatever was asked of her. Her generosity knew no bounds. A diminutive person she bore many a community burden often tackling jobs too big for her. She brought joy to every community where she was sent.

She was especially solicitous of students who returned from classes tired and hungry. She made sure that they were well fed no matter when they returned.

As a member of the core community of the newly built Nazareth Novitiate, her manner of living her FMM life

served as a beautiful witness to those young women entering religious life.

After 46 years of giving to others, Germaine was among pilgrims to Rome, Assisi and Lourdes, where she relished every minute touring the Holy Places.

After the novitiate transferred to Chicago, Germaine was sent to St. Michael's Community one of the newly formed communities at Fruit Hill where she worked in the Infirmary doing the laundry and teaching arts and crafts.

When the Infirmary became a licensed Skilled Nursing Facility she was one of the staff who continued to teach arts and crafts as well as helping out wherever need as was her life's pattern.

Throughout her later years, she experienced many "near death" episodes from what she managed to recover. She gradually declined in health yet maintained her cheerful, optimistic manner accepting all peacefully as God's will. She had a deep devotion to Mary and so it is fitting that she died on the feast of the Immaculate Conception and that her Mass of Christian burial was on December 15<sup>th</sup> the feast of Mary, Queen of the Franciscan Order, the day on which Germaine pronounced her final vows.