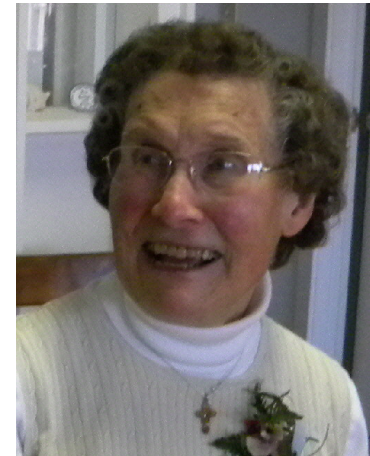


Sister Vilma Seelaus, OCD

Sr Vilma Seelaus was born in Philadelphia, PA, March 30, 1925 and was baptized Vilma Mathilde on April 19th. Her parents, Joseph Johann Seelaus and Maragaret Mary Ann Lihotz - born in Budapest, Hungary - had eight children. It was a close knit and loving family. Vilma was proud of her Hungarian roots, sharing stories of the fun the family enjoyed together.

Vilma entered Carmel in Newport, RI on April 23, 1946; on October 27th she received the Habit and a new name, Sr. Mary Joseph of the Infant Jesus. She found in Carmel what her musical career had not satisfied. She entered into the life of the community with great love and a deep desire to serve the sisters. Sr. Vilma made her profession of vows on August 22, 1948.

During the years following Vatican Council II, Sr Vilma entered whole heartedly into the renewal process. She was called forth to serve in leadership positions many times as Vocation and Formation Director and as our Prioress. Sr. Vilma was also in leadership positions in the Association of Contemplative Sisters, ACS' first President and on the first Interim Committee of the Association of Carmelite Nuns now CCA. Vilma's contribution to the Carmelite Forum and her many lectures as part of the Summer Program at St Mary's since 1985, witness to her great desire to make the charism of Carmel better known and loved. Her interest in the interplay of spirituality and psychology found expression with a devoted group of friends, who meet at the Monastery on the first Tuesday of each month. As author and spiritual director, Sr. Vilma has touched the lives of many persons, who will miss her loving and wise presence.



*Mass of Christian Burial
in Celebration of the Life of*

*Sr. Vilma Seelaus, OCD
(Sr. Mary Joseph of the Infant Jesus)
March 30, 1925 - January 26, 2012*

*Celebrant: Bishop Louis E. Gelineau, D.D.
Homilist: Rev. Kevin Culligan, ocd*

*Monastery of Discalced Carmelite Nuns
Barrington, RI
Monday, January 30, 2012*