

Mother Josepha Kruchinsky, M.S.M.G.

Sister Josepha Mary Kruchinsky, daughter of the late Stephen and Yustina Kruchinsky, was born in Primrose, PA. She was the youngest of five children, namely Anna, Tess (Antoinette), Stephen and Helen. She received the Sacraments at St. Nicholas Church. It was here that the seed of her religious vocation was planted and tenderly nurtured. Sister was quite active in her parish, especially in the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was directed by the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate. After the death of Sister's father in 1933, the family moved to Minersville, PA where she attended the public elementary school and high school. After graduation, Sister worked for a while at a local factory before entering the convent.

She was drawn to the newly founded congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Mother of God (October 14, 1944) through the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. It was here that Jesus and Mary felt that she was most needed. Sister entered the congregation on June 19, 1945 and received her habit and religious name on October 14, 1945, the Feast of the Patronage of the Mother of God, according to the Julian calendar which was observed at that time. Her first vows were pronounced on December 14, 1947. It was on January 1, 1957 that Sister promised to serve Almighty God as a Missionary Sister of Mother of God all the days of her earthly life.

Sister Josepha holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology from Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT, and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Fordham University, NY. Her first teaching assignment was at Mother of God Academy in Stamford, CT where she taught a wide range of subjects including biology, chemistry, geometry, religion and physical education. In 1963, she was appointed the first principal of Ukrainian Assumption School in Perth Amboy, NJ and held that position for the next 31 years (25 of which, she also taught full-time). She nurtured the school with loving care. Her students especially enjoyed hearing her tell stories about her family and her growing up years.

In August of 1989, Sister was elected Mother General of the congregation and served in this capacity until 2002.