

Sister Mary Genevieve Prochaska, CDP
1922 – 2018

Sister Mary Genevieve Prochaska, CDP, age 95, entered eternal life on October 11, 2018 in McCullough Hall Nursing Center. Her niece, Mary Catherine and her husband were at her side when she passed peacefully at 6:15 p.m. Sister Genevieve was born on November 14, 1922, and was given the baptismal name Otilie Marie.

Sister Genevieve was the seventh of nine children born to Frank Prochaska, a farmer, and Barbara Vasek, housewife, in Taylor, Texas. Her father was from Czechoslovakia and the family lived in a Czech farming community. Her family raised vegetables, cotton, and maize on their farm. The love and faith that filled her parents was instilled in their children.

From an early age, Sister Genevieve's desire was to work in the medical profession. After two years at Our Lady of the Lake College, she became a registered technologist and embarked on 46 years of serving the people of God in various medical assignments throughout Texas and Oklahoma. In Sister Genevieve's later years, she served on the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) teams in Ennis and Waxahachie parishes and was always eager to tell others about the benefits of this process for the participants.

In her autobiography, Sister Genevieve described her family upbringing as close-knit and prayerful: "My parents' deep faith and examples of trusting God had become a part of me also." Recalling that she had never met a nun, she had a deep desire to be one. Upon graduation from high school, Sister Genevieve told her parents her plan and they approved. She answered God's call to become a Sister of Divine Providence and entered the novitiate on June 21, 1944, and professed first vows on June 22, 1945.

Sister Genevieve began her medical vocation when she first helped at the Convent drug store. Later, she worked at Madonna Hospital in Denison, Texas for 16 years. Her main interest was radiology—"it was a great challenge, [for] it was a growing field"—so she attended many meetings, workshops to learn new ideas she could put into practice. When she worked at St. Ann Hospital in Abilene, Texas, she organized a group of young girls, similar to the public hospitals' Candy Strippers, that she named "Annets," after the hospital. Because of her interest in radiology, she went to St. John's Hospital in Tulsa, OK, where she learned new and special procedures. She remained in Tulsa for two years before returning to St. Ann's.

Aside from her years in the medical profession, Sister Genevieve was also a coordinator for the Sisters in Regan Hall, San Antonio, TX, a ministry she "truly enjoyed...and found it to be an entirely new experience and truly wonderful one," and spent 16 years as a parish minister in RCIA.

Sister Genevieve is preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Barbara Vasek Prochaska, brothers: Joe (Mary) Prochaska, Jerry (Mary) Prochaska, George (Elise)

Prochaska, Frankie Prochaska; sisters: Mary (Charles) Foyt; Frances (Joe) Bailey, and Alie (Euel) Moore.

She is survived by her sister, Henrietta Prochaska Vrana, sister-in-law Mary Ann Prochaska, and numerous nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

The Rosary for Sister Genevieve is Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. and the Wake at 6:30 p.m. A Mass of Resurrection will be Wednesday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m. All services will be in Annunciation Chapel at Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to make a memorial contribution to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S.W. 24th Street, San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.