



Sister Mary Wabo (Sister Marie Joseph)

October 16, 1917 – March 23, 2011

Sister Mary Wabo, the ninth of ten children of the late Michael and Anna Wabo, joined the Franciscans in Millvale from St. Casimir Parish in Mahanoy City, Pa. Following her graduation from high school, she pursued a nursing career, earning degrees from the University of Dayton, Ohio, and Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. At the age of 43, after a nursing career in Pennsylvania, Africa, and Tennessee as a first lieutenant in the Army Nursing Corps, Sister Mary joined the Sisters of St. Francis in Millvale.

Sister Mary began her ministry as a nurse at St. Francis Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. For the following 19 years, she served as associate professor of nursing at South Georgia College and Columbus College in Columbus, Ga., where she received many commendations. Upon retiring from teaching, Sister Mary returned to Pittsburgh where she was a staff nurse at St. Francis Medical Center, then volunteered her nursing service at a local women's shelter and at the Millvale satellite office of the North Hills Community Outreach program. Her projects included bus route planning and recruiting volunteers. She also gathered needs assessment information for the residents of Millvale and discussed plans to help them. Sister Mary participated in community service until failing health confined her to the health care unit, where she joined the sisters in prayer ministry for the past eight years.

Sister Mary touched many lives by her kind, gentle and unassuming presence. Everyone will long remember her beautiful smile which reflected her inner beauty and closeness to God.