



OBITUARY OF
SISTER M. DOROTHY CONSUNJI, OSB

April 26, 1925- July 22, 2011

“ I will praise the Lord all my days; make music to my God while I live.” This verse from Psalm 126 very well sums up the life of our dear Sister Dorothy.

Frideswinda Consunji, daughter of Mr. Jose Consunji and Maria Feliciano of San Fernando, Pampanga, was born in that town on April 26, 1925. She was the third of seven children; 4 girls and 3 boys. Nurtured in a catholic home Frideswinda had her formal education at Assumption College in San Fernando, Pampanga. Having responded to the call of God after finishing secretarial course and working for sometime, she joined the Missionary Benedictine Sisters and entered the Novitiate in Manila on the first day of June, 1949. After her initial formation in the convent she made her first profession on April 21, 1952. After 3 years she was allowed to make her perpetual profession on April 25, 1955. Her gift and propensity in music was recognized in the convent and she was assigned to study at the School of Music of St. Scholastica’s College, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in 1954. In 1963 she was then assigned to accompany Sister Ma. Liguori del Rosario, OSB who was sent to Catholic University in Washington, D.C. to take her graduate degree in education. Sister Dorothy went to Manhattanville College for a Bachelor’s degree in Sacred Music.

Back in the Philippines in 1964, her professional life in the convent naturally veered around music – but not so much as a teacher in music but as First “chantress” and organist since the Congregation sings the Divine Office as well as celebrates Holy Mass most often with music and song. She had a great love for Gregorian Chant.

Sister Dorothy’s areas of responsibility in the convent dealt mostly with her being superior of the community; and at times, concurrently, directress of the school and treasurer. For a time she was Subprioress. Her characteristic air of calm and equanimity were wonderful assets for these assignments. So at various times she was superior,

directress, and or treasurer – in Manila, Marikina, San Fernando Pampanga, Tagaytay, and the Priory House. Other entities recognized her expertise as well and engaged her likewise as treasurer or finance officer: Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines, the Finance Technical Committee of the Manila Priory, the Philberth Foundation, and later the Board of Investments and Retirement. There were times when in one or the other house in the province, Sister Dorothy as superior, would also assign herself in charge of the maintenance of the school. She was ever open to all assignments like supervision of construction of buildings and other responsibilities – picking up those where she had no other members of her community to assign!

What was perhaps among the wonderful and praiseworthy things was: Sister Dorothy took all these with an air of equanimity, a smile rather than a frown, no sighs of feeling overburdened, accepting all from God's hands, confident that if He gives the burden, He will likewise give the strength and the wisdom to meet them all and carry them through. These were just as apparent as she bore her years of illness and incapacitation, of being confined mostly to bed at St. Benedict's Home in Marikina. In 2002 she had the joy of celebrating her Golden Jubilee of religious profession. She continued her apostolate of prayer and vigil. Her last days at the hospital she was a quiet and calm patient – truly **patient** until the end.

As we bade goodbye (so to say) to Sister Dorothy, we like to thank her and to think that we hear again her voice rise in song: "I will sing of the Lord's ways; how great is the glory of the Lord!"

Sisters of the Manila Priory