

**December 1**  
**Sister Stella Mary Parker**  
**(b. Jane Margaret Parker)**  
**(1910-1961)**

Sister Stella Mary -- Jane Margaret Parker - entered the Postulate on October 15, 1948. She had made application and been received ten years previous, but owing to illness in the family was unable to come.

After the death of her father and brother she was the only one left to care for her mother who had cancer. As soon as she could settle affairs after her mother's death she again made application and was received. On August 15, 1949 she received the holy habit and made her first profession on August 15, 1951.

That year she was missioned at St. Stephen, Port Huron; the next year at Holy Trinity, Detroit. Here she found work dear to her heart. She loved to work for the poor and neglected. The children loved her; her discipline was firm, but motherly and kind.

The following year when she did not return and the children learned she was ill a group asked if they could say the rosary in the church every night after school. The group fluctuated from eight to twenty-five. But from the opening of school in September until the closing in June the little group kept up the rosary every night.

On November 1, 1952 her illness first made itself manifest. From then until June she was sent from doctor to doctor each one treating her for a different disease. Finally she was sent to Dr. Webster, a brain-specialist. After five days of treatment he found a brain tumor. Her sense of humor came to the fore as she remarked, that he paid her a compliment, for no one before had ever admitted that she had a brain.

The doctor gave her at most a year to live. God, however, has His own time. He gave her eight and one-half years to offer her sufferings for souls, which she did lovingly and cheerfully. Hers was a long religious life lived in a short time.

Whenever she was able she worked on the missions testing or helping when there was a vacancy. In 1957 she was at Holy Name, Birmingham, in 1958 at Holy Redeemer, Detroit.

Sometimes for months she would be on duty and then a seizure would come to incapacitate her for weeks. Her greatest cross was the feeling that she was a burden to others. She accepted her suffering with beautiful resignation, nevertheless, it was not easy to have to be waited on. She never complained or spoke of her suffering.

Her outstanding virtue was gratitude. She was untiring in expressing her gratitude to God for her holy vocation. Repeatedly she would say, "How can I thank God for calling me here. He has taken such wonderful care of me, anything I have to suffer I can offer in thanksgiving."

Her last days were filled with suffering, but she kept up her cheerful outlook and sense of humor to the end. She was an example of patient endurance. May we meet our dear Master with as courageous a spirit.

Mother Teresa McGivney