



Frances Melchior

December 16, 1906 - November 14, 2007

Frances Durkin Melchior, 100, Topeka, died Wednesday Nov 14, 2007 at St. Francis Hospital. Frances was born December 16, 1906 to John J. and Katherine Rhomberg Durkin in Topeka where she lived her entire life. She attended Assumption Grade School and Topeka Catholic High School, and was a member of Assumption Catholic Church (now Mater Dei). Frances Married Joseph J. Melchior in August, 1942, he preceded her in death. Her daughter, Barbara Jean Geist, and her sister, Dorothy Froelich also preceded her in death. Frances was a member of the Daughters of Isabella and the St. Francis Hospital Auxiliary. Survivors include her son, Jerome Melchior, M.D.;her sister, Elizabeth Durkin, one granddaughter, Kiersten Melchior, 5grandsons, Kevin Melchior, Joe Geist, Mike Geist, Dave Geist and Paul Geist, 13 great grandchildren, and 2 nieces and 2 nephews. She worked for Southwick Automotive for 55 years. Though 50 years service should be note worthy no one else had been there that long, or had knowledge of her longevity with the company, and Frances didn't tell anyone. Frances donated her body to KU for medical research. A memorial Mass for Frances will be Saturday November17, 2007 at 1P.M. at Mater Dei Catholic Church, Assumption location with family greeting friend at 12 P.M. Memorial contributions may be made to Mater Dei/Assumption School and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home 2801 SW Urish RD Topeka KS 66614

Tribute Wall



“ *Frances Melchior*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Aunt Liddy, Jerome, the grandchildren, and other members of Aunt Frances' extended family.*

What a joy and blessing it's been to have Aunt Frances as an aunt, good friend, and very special part of my life for almost 60 years. My mother (Dorothy) was always very close to her two sisters (Fran and Liddy) and we got even closer in 1965, when our father took ill. Fran and Liddy turned their attic into a bedroom for my sister and myself and re-arranged their home and lives so that Dorothy and her 4 children could move in with them.

Even though she grew up poor, lost her beloved husband Joe at an early age, and worked for a low wage her whole working life, Aunt Frances kept her positive outlook on life and trusted in the Lord. Talking to Aunt Frances on the phone over these many years, there was no sense of her age because of her youthful and timeless spirit. I always felt better after talking with her.

I will miss Aunt Frances and our visits (by phone and in person) so very much but take comfort in the belief that she is enjoying the fullness of life and is surrounded by the love and joy of reuniting with her beloved husband, mother, daughter, sister, and friends who have gone before. Kathy Fredette (niece)

Kathy Fredette - November 18, 2007 at 01:26 PM

JF

“ It's not everyday that someone lives to 100 years of age (almost 101)! Everyone in the family loved Aunt Frances and had so much respect and affection for her. She was a very caring and loving person. I enjoyed talking with her on the phone as she was always thinking of others and constantly wanted to know that her loved ones were doing well. I remember her babysitting my brother and me, sitting with us on the porch swing, gardening, going out to play bingo, and much more. (As kids, we also loved how Frances and Liddy had tons of chocolate in their fridge! Somehow they didn't have the sweet tooth we do :) I didn't know Aunt Frances as a young person (she was 75 when I was born!) but I have seen black and white videos that the family took when she was around age 40. It's hard to conceive just how much change she saw in our world since 1906, how many hard times she had to endure, or how much happiness she brought to other people's lives. She was truly remarkable, and we will always remember her with love and gratefulness.

Jenny Fredette - November 16, 2007 at 10:43 AM

JD

“ Frances was a very active member of Assumption Church. She reached out to many of us with her smile, her words of encouragement and the cards she sent. I am thankful I got to visit her last holiday season in her home. She was a very special person and will be missed.

Joann Dawdy - November 16, 2007 at 09:54 AM

CM

“ I delivered Meals on Wheels to Frances and her sister. She was always a bright spot on the route with a smile and a good wish for us. I'll miss her.

Chris Miller - November 16, 2007 at 09:31 AM

CW

“ I enjoyed delivering Meals on Wheels to Frances and her sister. That was always my favorite stop, and my kids enjoyed that stop most also. I'm sure you will miss her a lot.

Coleen Wenger - November 16, 2007 at 09:30 AM

JG

“ It is fitting that Frances is having her service at Mater Dei Church. She was a wonderful matriarch to her family, friends, and church. We will all remember her kindness, her radiance, and her love.

Pax and Love,

*Joe Geist and Tom Yancey
Fayette, Missouri*

Joe E. Geist - November 16, 2007 at 08:37 AM