

We of Nojoshing

Nojoshing – Indian word for the area where our pioneer members settled in 1849; it means "piece of land stretching into the water." The name was changed later to St. Francis, Wisconsin.



Newsletter of The New Assisi Archives of the
SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI, 3221 South Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235-3799

We celebrate the memory of our beloved Sister Margaret Ann (Lucille Rose) Recker March 16, 1927 – February 6, 2020

Sister Margaret Ann, who was baptized Lucille Rose, was born in Dyersville, Iowa, to George and Lidwine (Burkel) Recker. Her family belonged to the Basilica of St. Francis Xavier in Dyersville. Lucille completed elementary and high school before joining our congregation. Lucille felt called to be a sister since receiving her first Holy Communion. Her aunt, Sr. Friedoline Recker, was a Dubuque Franciscan but was not in favor of her niece entering religious life. Lucille applied for entrance when she was 19 but was refused. It so happened then that her aunt went to Wesley, Iowa, to visit her brothers, and while there, she paid a visit to the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi at the parish convent. Following this visit she encouraged Lucille to apply to our community. Lucille visited Milwaukee on September 16, 1946, was accepted into the congregation and entered on October 3, the day before the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. She was overjoyed and commented on how waking up on the day after she arrived, she marveled at how this could be happening.

When Lucille became a novice in 1947, she received the name Sister Margaret Ann, and she professed vows in 1949. She ministered for 12 years in domestic service at St. Francis Major Seminary, Milwaukee, followed by 22 years in food service at St. Francis Major Seminary; the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., School in Palos Park, Ill, where she was also a child care worker; St. Coletta School in Jefferson, Wis.; and at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. In 1986, she transitioned to adult resident care at St. Clare Ranch/St. Coletta of Wisconsin. In March 2000, Sister Margaret Ann retired from active ministry and moved back to the Milwaukee area. She volunteered at Marian Franciscan Home and St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care until 2011, when changing health needs required her to move to the Motherhouse.

Her assignments in ministry were demanding, but in her free time she found a creative outlet doing "fancy stitching," reading and gardening. Writing letters to forgotten people was an outreach activity of hers. She celebrated the 70th jubilee of her profession in 2019.

The reflections Sister Margaret Ann wrote for her 50th and 60th Jubilee celebrations give us an insight into her contemplative nature.

50th Jubilee 1999

I have had a very full life. I'm not a learned person but I know the goodness of the Lord. All through my life, starting with my father and mother, people stood by me and encouraged me to do things that gave me an opportunity to grow.

I feel very loved by God. I owe it to the many people who have shown me love. Community has been very good to me. I feel very appreciated and loved in the work I do. I have been blessed a hundredfold; my ambition is to continue to look ahead to greater opportunities to grow in the Lord.

60th Jubilee 2009

I believe that living a vowed life helped me do all that I was asked to do. I came to the convent wanting to do what God called me to do. I believe that is to LOVE. I always tried to put love into what I was doing. It was easy to love Rosemary (Kennedy) and all the special children I worked with over the years. Even the manual labor was done with all the love I could put into it.

Now I look forward to being in the presence of God. As my physical vision becomes limited, I look forward to depending on my spiritual vision. I hope to keep my Bible as my best friend to help me find Jesus in the people I live with and meet. Hopefully, the Holy Spirit, who has always spoken for me when I did not have words, will continue to help me. And Mary, the mother of Jesus, is always there to teach me. I am grateful.

God called Sister Margaret Ann home very unexpectedly on February 6, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. A nurse had just finished giving her a breathing treatment when she died peacefully. Her faith-filled life journey continues now in the home God has prepared for her.

"One thing I ask of the Lord, this I seek, to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life."

Ps 27:4

~ †Marie Colette Roy, OSF, and Marcia Lunz, OSF