

# 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.



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## We celebrate the memory of our beloved Sister Patricia (formerly Sister Mary William) McAlpin May 14, 1934 – January 14, 2021

### **SISTER PATRICIA McALPIN – A LOVELY, FAITHFUL PRESENCE**

Sister Patricia was born on May 14, 1934, in Brooklyn, New York, and both of her parents had been born in Brooklyn as well. She became acquainted with the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore through sisters living in East Meadow, New York, and she was attracted to our ministry with African-American orphans. She entered the community on February 2, 1959, and when she was received into the novitiate in August of that same year, she was given the name Sister Mary William.

Sister Patricia's dedication was "The Lamb of God" and her motto was "I will follow the Lamb wheresoever He goes." She followed Him from teaching elementary school in Richmond, Virginia, to teaching in Harlem and Yonkers, New York, and then Norfolk and Danville, Virginia.

In 1984, Sister Pat came back to Baltimore and was coordinator of religious education at Our Lady of Hope Parish in Middle River, Maryland. Then, in 1991, she became Co-Director and then Director of Francis House, our Franciscan volunteer program in Baltimore, where men and women lived in community and worked with the poor. She also began working part-time at the Marriage Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and helping at the Franciscan Center.

While at Francis House, Sister Patricia was elected for a term on the Council of the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore. During that time, we celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding in Mill Hill, England. She delighted in traveling to Mill Hill for the celebration with the other Council members – Sisters Linda Tan, Margaret

Mary Sullivan, Beth Anne Herrmann and Eileen Quinn.

She was known most of her life as Sister Patricia, or Pat, and her Feast Day was March 17 – the feast of Saint Patrick. She was someone who was always present for community events, meetings and gatherings. You could count on seeing her there, smiling and participating. She was engaged in whatever was happening without needing to be in the limelight. When Pat retired in 2009, she continued to live at Clare Court Convent in Baltimore until she moved to Milwaukee in 2019.

While she was dedicated to community and ministry, she knew how to enjoy the simple pleasures of life. At Clare Court, Sister Pat could be found working with others on the daily crossword puzzle from the newspaper, working on a jigsaw puzzle or playing cards in the evening. She loved coming to Aisling Retreat House for Christmas parties, retreat days, Saint Patrick's Day celebrations or summer gatherings. She was always up for travel when the opportunity presented itself, and she enjoyed interacting with her grandnieces and nephews over the years.

Sister Pat was a beautiful friend to many, and after moving to Milwaukee, she found a lovely friend in Sr. Cor Marie Lowrie, who accompanied Pat through her days right up until her passing on January 14, 2021. "Be still and know that I am God" was her favorite scripture and she lived this passage during her final days in hospice care at Saint Francis Convent.

~ Mary Therese White, OSF