

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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SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI, 3221 South Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235-3799

We celebrate the memory of our beloved Sister Patricia Delany formerly Sister Madeleva October 29, 1922 – June 23, 2021

Sister Patricia was born in the Town of Merton, Wis., the daughter of Edward and Frances (Roets) DeLany. She graduated from North Lake Public Grade School and St. Mary's Academy before joining our congregation on January 5, 1941. When she became a novice on August 11 that year, she received the name Sister Madeleva. After Vatican Council II, she resumed her baptismal name.

Sister Pat professed vows in 1943 and began her life-long ministry as an elementary school teacher. Between 1943 and 1994, she taught in Wisconsin schools in Milwaukee (Sacred Heart, St. Sebastian), Fredonia, New Berlin, Neosho, Spring Green, Paris (Union Grove), Random Lake and South Milwaukee. Out of state, she taught at Hanna Boys Center in Sonoma, Calif.; and Parkston, S. D. Her teaching was combined briefly with being a principal in Spring Green and Paris, Wis. She also taught briefly at St. Mary's Academy for four months at the end of an academic year as a substitute teacher.

There were four girls and three boys in the DeLany family, and Sister Pat was the youngest of the girls. Her older sisters – Sisters Dolora (†2004), Mary Kenneth (†1997), and Francis Marie (†2020) – preceded her to the convent, and, along with the sisters she had had in high school, inspired her to enter the community. While there have been other combinations of sisters from one family, the DeLany sisters were the only 'four-sister' combination. They always looked forward to getting together to enjoy each other's company, catch up with what was going on in their lives, and play games like Scrabble.

After 51 years in the classroom, Sister Pat retired in 1994 and moved to Clare Hall. She found her niche as a volunteer in fulfilling orders and invoicing the catalogue card sales for Poverello Prints. All of her organizational skills as a teacher were put to good use in maintaining order among all the boxes of cards and keeping the design and card count accurate for each order. Sister Pat was a volunteer when Jan Parrott took over managing all the aspects of Poverello Prints. Jan wrote that:

"Sister Pat was a wonderful helper for me in our Poverello Prints card shop and mail order sales. She was diligent, meticulous and organized and did an amazing amount of work to keep things running smoothly. She was willing to do anything to help if I had a good reason! She was always thinking about sisters she might recruit to help us . . . and then training

the new helpers on the duties of the job. I learned so much from her about the sisters and the congregation – she was a teacher through and through, and my many questions about religious life were always welcome and answered with grace and kindness. I couldn't have asked for a better work companion in my early years of working here.”

Hallmarks of Sister Pat were her warm smile and peaceful presence. She enjoyed walks outdoors, especially along the lakefront, with the fresh air and beauty of nature all around her. She loved to reminisce about her students and other aspects of life where she had lived. It was important to her to keep up with the national and international news; and being with sisters in community meant a lot.

At her celebration of 70 years of profession in 2013, Sister Pat said simply that, “It has been a good life.” In 2015 Sister Pat moved from Clare Hall to the Motherhouse for health reasons. In May of 2019, she moved with the sisters to the new St. Francis Convent.

When Sister Pat's condition changed, she was anointed on June 16 and sisters began to keep vigil with her in her room at St. Francis Convent in Clare Circle. On June 23, 2021, God called her home. Sister Felicia Schlechter was with her when she died peacefully.

“You are the temple of the living God, just as God has said: I will dwell with them and walk among them. and I will be their God, and they will be My people.” (2 Corinthians 6:16)

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