

# 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 Brigid Yeh July 25, 1946 – July 6, 2022**

Sister Brigid Yeh was born on July 26, 1945, in Shin Shu county south of Taipei, Taiwan, and was named Ursula. She had one brother and two sisters and she described her family, which included her grandparents who lived in the same house, as a loving family. Chinese Moon Festival and Chinese New Year were special occasions for celebrating.

Ursula entered primary school at age six. After completing the six-year program, she went to middle school for three years and then to high school for three years. Later she had training to be a kindergarten teacher.

In her autobiography, which Sister Brigid wrote in 1996, she said that since she was the oldest child in the family, her grandmother favored her. When she was nine, she told her grandmother that she wanted to go to the Catholic Church on Sunday. Her family did not like this idea but her grandmother encouraged her and the pastor of the Catholic Church helped her. Ursula took instructions to be a Catholic for a little more than a year. In 1957, she was baptized and received her first communion on the same day. From then on, she lived as a Christian and felt that she owed her Catholic faith and religious vocation to her grandmother.

In 1962, at age 17, Ursula became acquainted with the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi when she became an employee at Liteh kindergarten in Panchiao, Taiwan, which our Sisters had founded. She entered our congregation in Taiwan on May 26, 1974, and received the name Sister Brigid” when she became a novice on August 1, 1976. Her first profession of vows was August 1, 1978, and final profession took place on June 6, 1987.

After entering the congregation, Sister Brigid participated in formation programs and completed an AD Education program in Taiwan. In 1984, she made her first trip to the United States to attend English classes at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), and participate in formation classes. She returned to Taiwan for two years and then came back to the U.S. for a year to study English at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (UWM).

Returning once again to Taiwan in 1988, Sister Brigid worked as an assistant at Liteh Kindergarten until 1995. On most of the days, she was in the school office planning schedules for teachers and students, caring for children when they did not feel well, answering the phone and doorbell, and performing other acts of hospitality.

Sister Brigid's interest and passion for Chinese medicine were very evident. In Taiwan, she studied with other practitioners and learned the rudiments of acupuncture and Chinese medicines. She was eager to help anyone who was experiencing pain or discomfort. With Americans, her treatment most often began with instruction and assurance that what she wanted to do would be of benefit. She set the stage for healing with her patience, compassion and excellent skills.

In 1995, Sister Brigid moved to Milwaukee to study Chinese medicine and acupuncture at the Oriental School of Medicine in Racine, Wis. Brigid had a reputation for being an exceptional acupuncturist. Even while studying for her degree, students would come to her for treatments, and teachers would ask her advice.

In July 2000, she passed the USA National Boards for Acupuncture; and in December 2002, she became a certified practitioner of Oriental Medicine. Sister Brigid worked in Taiwan as a Medical Intern from 2002 to May 2006. She returned to Milwaukee and ministered as a practitioner in Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture for the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care until 2008.

In addition to her studies in oriental medicine, Sister Brigid was tutored in English by Sister Mary Albert Leonhard (†2005), who prepared her to pass her naturalization exam. After a lot of hard work, Sister Brigid became a naturalized United States citizen on January 26, 2001. She held dual citizenship with her native Taiwan.

Sister Brigid returned to Taiwan in January 2008 to assist with kindergarten administration. As much as possible she continued to help others with her healing ministry. She helped visitors learn much about Taiwan by introducing them to new foods like the pomelo, a delicious tropical fruit that looks like an oversized grapefruit but is much sweeter, to visiting local venues like the Night Market. A tour through a Chinese drug store was a visual introduction to alternative medicine. Smelling a variety of cinnamon sticks and powder and noting the differences was very instructional.

The burden of language was always on Brigid when communicating in English. She took it in stride, worked hard at conveying her thoughts and listened intently to understand what English speakers were saying. She was eager to serve and to join in. Even with her shy personality, she enjoyed the humorous side of things and responded with her classic wry smile.

Brigid had a keen sense of beauty. She said that plants and flowers gave her a lot of pleasure. Gardening gave her an outlet to provide fresh food to eat and flowers to enjoy. She was an outstanding cook, a gift she shared with those with whom she lived. In her leisure time, she enjoyed watching TV, movies and relaxing with a good novel or history book. Prayer was a source of inspiration for her.

Brigid suffered a stroke on May 20. She was in the rehab unit of Fu Jen Catholic Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan, when she was called to enter the fullness of everlasting life at 5:39 p.m. on July 6. Her friend Jenny Chu was with her and told us that Brigid died peacefully. Sister Brigid requested that she be buried in Taiwan. Father Willy Ollevier, her pastor, will preside at the funeral Mass. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Francis Convent on July 20, 2022.

*~ Sister Marcia Lunz, OSF*