

# 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 Charitine (Dorothy) Jones August 14, 1921 – August 15, 2022**

Sister Charitine was born in Oak Hill, Wis., which is now part of Fitchburg, Wis., to William and Erma (Gaffney) Jones. Her birth took place at home over the general store. Oak Hill at that time consisted of the general store, the school and her paternal grandparents' home. Sister Charitine was baptized, Dorothy.

When Dorothy was two years old, the family moved to Belleville, Wis., so her father could manage his father-in-law's farm. Three more girls joined the family – Ione, Catherine and Bernie. Tragically, their father drowned in a boating accident when Bernie was just six weeks old. Her mother raised the family, and with the help of two farm hands, ran the farm.

Dorothy walked two miles to and from Morehead Grade School for eight years. She attended Belleville High School for one year before transferring to Edgewood High School in Madison for two years, and finished high school at St. Mary's Academy in Milwaukee, Wis.

Dorothy's call to enter the convent started sometime in her sophomore year. She met the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi during summer catechism classes. On September 5, 1939, she became a postulant and finished her senior year at St. Mary's Academy. At reception as a novice in August of 1940, Dorothy was given the name "Sister Charitine."

In 1942, Sister Charitine made first profession of vows and began her life of ministry at St. Coletta of Wisconsin in Jefferson, Wis. During her first three years, she was a caregiver for a group of girls, which was followed by two years of teaching kindergarten.

Changes in ministry assignments broadened her experiences. She did domestic work at St. Francis Major Seminary from 1947–1950 and 1959–1960 and at St. Francis de Sales Minor Seminary from 1950–1951.

Between 1951 and 1963, Sister Charitine alternately served at the Bishop's Residence in Louisville, Ky., or was a seriously ill patient. In the mid 50's, Sister Charitine made medical history. After suffering with chronic lung problems for several years, she was sent to St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Ill. There she was diagnosed with Histoplasmosis, caused by a fungus that hibernates in soil or bird droppings. At that time, this disease was relatively unknown. Sister Charitine had contracted the illness from helping with the cleaning of chicken coops several years earlier.

In 1963, Sister Charitine moved back from Kentucky to the Motherhouse, worked in the host department for a year, and then returned to St. Coletta for the next two years. In 1966, her desire to work with orphans became reality at St. Joseph Orphanage in Torrington, Wyo., until 1970. Then she spent a year at the Archbishop's residence in Milwaukee and the next year recuperating from illness.

Returning to St. Coletta in 1972, Sister Charitine served in a variety of capacities such as receptionist, hostess, public-relations assistant, transportation coordinator and volunteer. In 1999 she retired to the Motherhouse after a total of 39 years at St. Coletta. The changes she experienced were monumental and "not always easy." But she was glad the Lord had called her and that she had responded.

Throughout the ups and downs of her life, Sister Charitine said the love of God was always steadfast. She relaxed with her hobbies, which she named as listening to good music, reading and quiet time in prayer. Her wish was "to be remembered for loving her religious life, being a quiet person, and enjoying her friends and family and card playing."

Sister Charitine's reflection at the time of her 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2017 summarizes her life.

*God is good. In my 75 years, I've served guests and international students in Jefferson at St. Coletta of Wisconsin. My service at both seminaries was doing general work. In Wyoming, I was in charge of the nursery. I have been there and done it. I can't count all God's blessings, and I'd do it again. Blessed so much more in my service to archbishops, bishops and students which has enriched my life, and I can thank God for His wondrous blessing. When I leave my room daily, I ask the Lord to walk with me and the infant Jesus to bless and protect us. Each day I ask for blessings on us, my family, and thank God for all."*

When Sister Charitine's condition began to change, plans were made to have Father Jim Schroeder anoint her on August 12 after Mass. On August 14, Sister marked her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday and on August 15, 2022, at 7:37 p.m. God called her home. Sisters Carol Mechtenberg and JoAnn Schmitz witnessed her peaceful death. God loved her into life and blessed her with a long life.

*"You reveal the path of life to me, give me unbounded joy in your presence, and at your right hand everlasting pleasures." Ps. 16:11*

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