

Name: Sister Anne Brochtrup (Sister M. St. Anne)
Date of Birth: May 21, 1925
Place of Birth: Hollandtown, Wisconsin
Parents: William and Anna (Arts) Brochtrup
Religious Profession: August 15, 1943
Date of Death: May 4, 2017
Age: 91
Years Professed: 73



Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Mary Alice Anna Brochtrup was born on May 21, 1925. She was the third child of William and Anna (Arts) Brochtrup. Mary Alice was baptized at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Hollandtown on May 24, 1925. She was confirmed there on Oct. 13, 1935. Mary Alice's mother died on the day of her birth. Her Dad later married her step-mother, Rosella Cordell Arts and the family grew.

Mary Alice attended St. Francis School in Hollandtown completing her Sophomore year there. While she was a student, one of her teachers asked her if she had ever considered becoming a Sister. Not so long after that, a priest asked her the same question. Mary Alice decided to follow the Lord's invitation and entered Holy Family Convent on August 22, 1940. She chose the Congregation of Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity because they were her teachers at St. Francis School and she wanted to be a teacher, too. Her Dad gave her two weeks before she would call him to take her back home. As we know, she never did make that call. On her Reception Day, June 11, 1941, Mary Alice received the name, Sister M. St. Anne, in memory of her Mom. After Vatican Council II she said she dropped the St. because she wasn't there yet! Since then she has been known as Sister Anne.

Sister Anne completed her High School at Holy Family Academy receiving her diploma in 1942. She went on to attend Holy Family College. In 1957 she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Education and a minor in English. Sister Anne taught in Wisconsin, Arizona, Illinois, Michigan and Hawaii. She taught first grade except one year when she taught a combination third and fourth grade and two years in second grade. First graders were her favorite students. I quote Sister Anne as follows, "They're so fresh, so new, so eager to learn when they come in my classroom. It's a good age because no one has told them they may not be able to do things yet. Everything is new to them."

Over her many years of teaching, methods changed and new ideas of how to educate were introduced. Sister Anne adapted to these changes while maintaining high educational standards. Besides teaching the students reading and other academic skills she taught them life skills such as how to tie shoes, pull up socks, put on and buckle boots, zip or button coats. Other teachings were the gentle reprimands to learn good social skills. Some of Sister Anne's typical statements and teaching techniques are found in the following quotes from a Post-Crescent newspaper article interview November 22, 1981.

- To help develop listening skills, "Now we aren't going to whisper while others are reading." And another, "Let's put our pencils to sleep in the desks while we listen."
- To teach a polite behavior, "What happened to the 'thank you'?" A child responded, "I'll help you look for it!"
- To teach appropriate behavior when a first grade girl was kissing first grade boys who did not appreciate these advances, "Jamie, I think you should save your kisses for mommy and daddy." Well," Jamie said, "I have plenty more than that." Sister Anne admitted that all of her methods did not always work!

Wherever Sister Anne was missioned for her 53 years of teaching she found children to teach and love. I quote her, "Where could I be so close to my Maker as when I teach a child to read or guide his hand in writing, so that someday he might write a book!" In the end her deepest desire was to help mold and form the character of each child to help them love God more.

Sister Anne enjoyed visiting the sick and homebound after her teaching ministry ended. Wherever she went she spread joy and an up-lifting spirit. She was missioned in Kaukauna, Green Bay, Zanesville and St. Francis Convent in Manitowoc over the past 20 years as Sponsor Presence, Parish Minister and Member of the Prayer Apostolate especially praying for the Genesis Health Care System. The following letter, dated November 10, 2000, to Sister Anne's Contact Person on the General Administration, captures the spirit and character of Sister Anne wherever she was missioned and serving God in whatever she was asked to do.

Dear Sister Estelle,

I am writing to you today to say THANK YOU for sending Sister Anne Brochtrup to St. Agnes Parish - the volunteer role in pastoral care. Sister Anne has ministered to our hospitalized parishioners at St. Mary Hospital since August. She has brought a smile and a presence to our parishioners that has warmed their hearts.

Her greatest feat to this time is her dedication to our parishioners confined to Manor Care West Nursing Home. Her wit, smile and charm has brightened the atmosphere at Manor Care, especially to our parishioners in the Alzheimer Unit.

My words to you could never match the appreciation our parishioners feel to have such a gift as Sister Anne in our parish. Again, THANK YOU!

Sincerely, Deacon Bob Nooker, St. Agnes Parish, Green Bay, WI

Due to declining health, Sister Anne moved to St. Rita Health Center this past April. She lived a life of gratitude to God for the many blessings she received in her lifetime: her Franciscan Sisters, her family, her friends and all who touched her life. We thank God for the life of Sister Anne who witnessed to us many gifts, especially Franciscan Joy and Hospitality. She is now reunited with her family, friends and the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity who have gone before her.

Sister Anne, may you rest in peace.