



Name: Sister Andrée DuCharme (Sister André Hubert)
Date of Birth: October 3, 1927
Place of Birth: Stevens Point, Wisconsin
Parents: William Francis and Alice Mary (LaSalle) DuCharme
Religious Profession: August 15, 1946
Date of Death: November 14, 2017
Age: 90
Years Professed: 71

Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Lorraine Edna DuCharme was born on October 3, 1927 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin to William Francis and Alice Mary (LaSalle) DuCharme. Lorraine was baptized at St. Stephen's Church in Stevens Point on October 16, 1927 and was Confirmed there on May 23, 1939 by Bishop Paul Rhode.

Lorraine had two sisters and one brother. Her Father died when she was ten years old. She attended St. Stephen's Elementary School and was taught by the Notre Dame Sisters. After Grade school she went to the Academy in Stevens Point where she had the Franciscan Sisters of Mishawaka. From the time Lorraine was young she wanted to be a teacher. Since the only teachers she knew were Sisters, she wanted to be a Sister. Lorraine had two cousins who were Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, Sister Mary Angela and Sister Mary Paschal, so she decided to apply to enter Holy Family Convent.

The following letter dated July 20, 1942 was written by Lorraine's mother to Mother Perpetua.

Rev. Mother:

First let me introduce myself. I am an aunt to Sister M. Angela and Sister M. Paschal. Their mother is my sister. I am writing because I have a young daughter who is anxious to enter your convent. She is 14 years old. She finished her first year of high school at the Academy here. Our Pastor, Father McGinley asked the Sisters to take her in. She worked her way through.

Our means are very limited. We have been alone for four years. I have another daughter who finished High School in June and a boy younger than Lorraine. I do not know if you would accept her on these terms. I will try to give her whatever clothes she needs. I am trying to get work where I could work every day. So far it has been only part time and not much pay. My age is against me. I am 54 and have never worked out before. The only thing I can do is sewing. Dorothy has started to work, but it's not much of a paying job now. There is a chance to make more later on, but that will take six months.

Things do not look very good right now, but we hope to change that in time. Mrs. Wilson is planning to visit Sister Paschal next month. I will try to have Lorraine there at that time. She is in good health and had fairly good marks in school. I shall be glad to hear from you.

*Very sincerely,
Mrs. W. DuCharme*

Without a doubt, Mother Perpetua did respond to Mrs. DuCharme. Lorraine was accepted and entered Holy Family Convent on August 16, 1942. She continued her High School studies at Holy Family Academy, graduating in 1945. At the time of her reception, June 13, 1944, Lorraine received the name Sister M. André Hubert. It was after Vatican Council II that Sister André Hubert dropped the masculine part of her name and became known as Sister Andrée.

She attended Holy Family College earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree July 26, 1959 with a Major in English and a Minor in French. Sister Andrée broadened her English background by attending Marquette University in Milwaukee and later attended the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, earning a Master's Degree in Art in 1967.

Sister Andrée taught nineteen years in elementary schools in Marinette and in Manitowoc. For forty-two years she taught various media of Art at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family. Twenty two of those years she was head of the Art Department. Over the years Sister Andrée received many awards and recognitions. In April 2016 the DuCharme Erdmann Gallery, the Silver Lake College Art Gallery, was dedicated to honor Sister Andrée and Sister Mariella Erdmann. After retiring from Silver Lake College, Sister Andrée lived at St. Francis Convent where she continued to volunteer in the Art Department. She conducted art classes at St. Francis Convent for the Sisters living there who were interested in developing artistic expression.

When her health declined she moved to St. Rita Health Center this year to receive the care that she needed. Her skill of lettering was a special gift that was still shared this past August. Sister Andrée did the Calligraphy for the Motherhouse Cafeteria Bulletin Board. When Sisters commented on the board she said, "I never thought I would ever do that again. I am grateful that I could share the gifts God has given to me." When asked about her special talents, skills, hobbies and interests Sister Andrée commented that she enjoyed stitchery, weaving, ceramics, lettering, teaching, reading, travel and listening.

At the time of her Jubilee, Sister Andrée wrote, "I am filled with an overwhelming sense of awe and gratitude. No one could do this alone. No one goes through life alone. Family, Religious Community, Friends, Students, all have made a contribution to my life. I cannot thank them enough....Above all, I thank God for calling me to serve in this Religious Congregation and for His constant support in helping me respond to that call. I am grateful for the many spiritual gifts and educational opportunities with which He has blessed me. My sincere thanks to all who have surrounded me with their care, concern, love and prayers. You are all part of who I am."

We add our thanks to Sister Andrée who was an inspiration to all of us as she lived out her call to live the Gospel in our Franciscan Community and serve God's people in St. Rita Health Center by lovingly accepting her sufferings and limitations to participate in Christ's work of redemption. We trust that she will continue her Prayer Apostolate of interceding for our Sisters in Special Apostolates. Sister Andrée has given herself up completely and handed herself over totally to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eternal rest grant to Sister Andrée, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. AMEN!