



Name: Sister Eugenia Vande Hey  
Date of Birth: June 5, 1929  
Place of Birth: Hollandtown, Wisconsin  
Parents: Peter and Odelia (Meulemans) Vande Hey  
Religious Profession: June 14, 1947  
Date of Death: January 25, 2018  
Age: 88  
Years Professed: 70 years

Wake Reflection Comments written by Sister Adrianna Schouten  
Presented by Sister Natalie Binversie

Rose Ann Vande Hey, the fifth of seven children, was born on June 5, 1929 to Peter and Odelia (Meulemans) Vande Hey in Hollandtown, Wisconsin. Rose Ann was baptized by Father John De Vries at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Hollandtown on June 8, 1929. The family lived on a small farm in Hollandtown and like many other families suffered great need during the depression. The Most Reverend Paul Rhode confirmed her on April 29, 1942.

Rose Ann attended St. Francis School in Hollandtown for 10 years. She was taught all those years by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. She graduated in 1945.

With her parents' consent and encouragement and with the assistance of Sister Thomas More and Sister Rosaire Hart, she entered Holy Family Convent on August, 17, 1945. At her reception on June 13, 1946, Rose Ann received the name Sister Eugenia. Sister Eugenia graduated from Holy Family Academy in 1948. She pronounced her first vows on June 14, 1947 and final vows on August 15, 1952.

Sister Eugenia attended Holy Family College and graduated in 1957 with a major in Education and a minor in English. She was an elementary school teacher in schools in the Diocese of Green Bay from 1948-1968.

Sister Eugenia was unable to continue teaching and in a reflection she wrote:

*“Yet, the Lord had another plan. Poor health, pain and surgeries followed for the next span of years along with a permanent handicap. The way was dark and*

*shadowed with the cross. At an early age it was necessary for me to give up the active ministry of teaching. The gift now given was clouded with loneliness, separation and questions. With spiritual assistance and encouragement I continued to walk the way not alone any longer but with Jesus...the “yes” of acceptance of God’s way changed the darkness and self-blindness to a brighter light which helped to direct my future days”*

Sister Eugenia began work as a volunteer in the occupational health ministry at Holy Family Memorial. Later she worked in occupational therapy at St. Paul’s Home in Kaukauna and took classes at Fox Valley Technical School to earn her certification as an Occupational Therapy Assistant. Sister took many enrichment classes to learn about disabilities and to keep up her skills. She received National Certification for Occupational Therapy Assistant from the years 1986-2005.

In 1991, Sister Eugenia came to offer services in occupational therapy at the Motherhouse. These services were delivered in many different places and settings. In 1994, a room designated for therapy was established in St. Rita Health Center. I quote Sister Eugenia:

*“Now having a space with basic equipment helps greatly to give quality treatments in a welcoming, positive environment. The positive response of the Sisters involved in any kind of therapy gives a feeling of meeting specific needs.”*

Sister served in the therapy room from 1994-2005.

From 2005-2014, Sister Eugenia lived at St. Francis Convent. She was part of the Prayer Apostolate praying for Sister Marlita and the people of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Newton and helped with various tasks in the house.

In 2014, Sister moved to St. Rita Health Center. She said

*” I am finding another gift – the gift of time, to spend in prayer and quiet, praying for the many needs of the world. I ask Jesus to wrap up my life and all it contains, to bless it and place it as one big gift of total surrender to give to the Father, the Creator of all gifts. Expectantly then, I wait for the day when He, the Giver and Creator of Gifts shall call me forth to be His forever.”*

God did call Sister Eugenia forth one last time on Thursday evening, January 25<sup>th</sup>, and she responded with one last “yes.” Eternal rest grant to Sister Eugenia O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.