

Name: Sister Mary Fidelia Mindeman  
Date of Birth: December 25, 1920  
Place of Birth: Waukesha, Wisconsin  
Parents: John Christopher and Mary Gertrude (Matteson) Mindeman  
Religious Profession: August 15, 1939  
Date of Death: February 3, 2018  
Age: 97  
Years Professed: 78



#### Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Margaret Mary Mindeman was born on Christmas Day, 1920 to John and Mary (Matteson) Mindeman. She was baptized at St. Joseph Church in Waukesha, Wisconsin on January 2, 1921 and was confirmed there on April 18, 1934.

Margaret Mary was an only child. Her mother was a teacher and her father was a traveling salesman until after the Depression when he ran a coal company. Margaret Mary attended St. Joseph's School in Waukesha where she got to know the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. She was especially fond of Sister Patricia Sullivan. From third grade on Margaret Mary wanted to become a Sister. Her Pastor advised that she go to High School at least one year before applying to enter the Convent. Margaret Mary took this advice and at the end of her Freshman year she applied to enter Holy Family Convent. She wrote the following letter to Mother Perpetua dated May 29, 1935.

*Dear Mother General,*

*I am enclosing the required statements, certificates and the completed application blank in this letter. I would prefer to enter the Convent in August rather than in June, because I have been doing the Church work during the summer. It will also give me more time to get together the different articles which I will need. Thanking you most kindly.*

*I am,*

*Margaret Mary Mindeman*

Margaret Mary was accepted and entered Holy Family Convent in August 1935. Margaret Mary had the support of her parents. Her Father commented to her as she made final preparations to leave home, "Just be sure this is it – none of this back and forth business." It was Depression time and the family did not have the finances for frequent travel. When her Mother was asked how she could let her only child go to the Convent, she replied, "I have a good friend with only one child who lives in Pennsylvania. She is lucky to see her once in three years. We can see Margaret Mary much more often." At the time of her Reception, June 15,

1937, Margaret Mary received the name Sister Mary Fidelia. The name Mary was after her Mother and Fidelia, meaning 'faithful.' Her name would inspire her throughout her life to remain faithful to God.

Sister Mary Fidelia completed her High School at Holy Family Academy in 1938. She went on to Holy Family College to receive a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1942 with a Major in Math and a Minor in French. In 1958 she earned a Master's Degree in Math from Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana. To support the subject areas she was assigned to teach and to keep up-dated Sister Mary Fidelia also took classes throughout her active ministry years at the Universities of Michigan, Vermont, Wisconsin and St. Louis in the subject areas of Chemistry, Physics and Administration.

Sister Mary Fidelia taught in High Schools in Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin for 22 years. She was High School Administrator for 20 more years. For 13 years she taught Math at Silver Lake College and worked part time in the Finance Office. She loved working with numbers. She prided herself in having a good mind! She enjoyed telling stories of her teaching days and had high praise and esteem for her former students. Some of them kept in contact with her. Sister Mary Fidelia enjoyed people, cats, crocheting and fishing.

At the time of her jubilee she reflected on the many blessings of her life in Community. God was always with her to answer problems and give solutions to her concerns. One of her concerns was her obligation as an only child to care for her parents. When her parents needed help in old age, they moved to the Nursing Home in Manitowoc that was a part of Holy Family Hospital. Later her Dad moved to St. Mary's Home. In her words, "Solutions were readily at hand."

Sister Mary Fidelia was thankful for the blessing of her vocation to Religious Life. She was grateful for all that God worked in and through her. The meaning of Religious Life grew over the years. In all it was a wonderful life with the Lord at her side helping her to do His work.

Sister Mary Fidelia became a resident of St. Rita Health Center in 2013. She participated in the Prayer Apostolate, praying for the needs of Roncalli High School. She lovingly accepted her sufferings and limitations to participate in Christ's work of redemption. We thank God for the gift of Sister Mary Fidelia's life and her witness of living as a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. Sister Mary Fidelia, may you rest in peace.