

Name: Sister Pavel Morin
Date of Birth: April 5, 1928
Place of Birth: Marquette, Michigan
Parents: Joseph and Aldia (Racine) Morin
Religious Profession: August 15, 1953
Date of Death: March 6, 2018
Age: 89
Years Professed: 64



Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Therese Marie Morin was born in Marquette, Michigan on April 5, 1928 to Joseph and Aldia (Racine) Morin. She was baptized at St. John's Church, the French Church, in Marquette on April 22, 1928 and confirmed there on June 15, 1941. Therese was the oldest of four children. She had two sisters, Patricia and Marilyn, whom we know as Sister Bonita, and one brother, Paul.

Therese attended public school for her first five years and then transferred to St. John's School in the sixth grade. Her teachers were the Ursuline Sisters from Quebec, Canada. When she graduated from eighth grade Therese asked her Mother if she could go to the Carmelite Sisters in Milwaukee. Her mother asked her to wait awhile. Therese accepted this and trusted her Mother's decision. Therese graduated from Graveraet High School in 1945. After graduation she worked at Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

The Morin family got to know the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity when they came to teach at St. John's School in 1945. When Marilyn (Sister Bonita) graduated she asked Therese what their Mother would say if she told her she wanted to go to the Convent. As a testament to Therese's character, knowing her own dream, she told her that their Mother would be very happy. In August 1950 Therese's youngest sister, Marilyn, and their cousin, Rita Ann Fish, went to Holy Family Convent in Manitowoc.

Therese never gave up her heart's desire. She never knew the reason for needing to wait. She was obedient and trusting and her waiting "for a while" had finally come. She had her Mother's permission to go to the Convent. On June 26, 1951 Therese wrote the following letter:

Dear Mother Edna,

I'm very interested in your order and would like to join. Please send me the necessary papers so that I may apply for admittance.

Thank you,

Therese Morin

*On August 13, 1951 Therese's pastor, Rev. Raymond J Garin, wrote the following letter:
To whom it may concern,*

Therese Morin, a member of my Parish, has informed me of her wish to become a member of the Order of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. I have known her for a number of years and I feel reasonably sure that she was in earnest when she told me of her desire. I have been very favorably impressed with her piety. She assists at Mass and receives Holy Communion practically daily. Furthermore, I feel practically certain that she is morally suited for the Convent. She impresses me as a good, clean-cut girl, of excellent character. And whatever I have heard others say concerning her was to her credit. Therefore, I feel justified in recommending Therese to the Convent of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity.

*Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rev. Raymond J. Garin
Administrator of St. John's*

Therese was accepted to enter Holy Family Convent on August. 23, 1951. On her Reception day, June 13, 1952, she received the name Sister Pavel. She attended Holy Family College earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree on July 28, 1965 with a Major in Education and a Minor in English. Sister Pavel was an excellent Primary Grade teacher for 38 years in Wisconsin, Arizona, Ohio and Michigan. She was very generous and caring.

She was a very creative artist. One Christmas she made a perfect Nut Cracker Soldier out of a cardboard towel roll. She painted and enjoyed doing calligraphy. Sister Pavel also enjoyed listening to music, stamp collecting and bird watching. She was a Media Center Aide at Silver Lake College for 19 years, helping Sister Berdelle and Sister Rosita. One of her main tasks was making materials for the Kodaly Music Program.

At the time of her Jubilee Sister Pavel wrote, "I've had my 'ups and downs' but no regrets. The Lord has always given me a calm and patient heart. Now in my retirement I bask in the many blessings I've received through the years and am still receiving. God is so good. His love for us is hard to imagine. I know I don't realize the many gifts I've received. I now have time to pay attention and realize His many urges and promptings. I've enjoyed my years of ministry and I'm especially grateful for the love and support I've received from my Sisters in Community and my family."

In November 2015 Sister Pavel was called to live the Gospel 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. As a member of the Prayer Apostolate she prayed in a special way for Sister Margey Schmelzle and the people of St. Augustine Parish in Republic and Sacred Heart Parish in Champion, Michigan.

We thank God for the gift, example and witness of Sister Pavel's life as a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. Eternal rest grant to Sister Pavel. O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace, AMEN!