

Name: Sister Renita Tadych
Date of Birth: August 5, 1934
Place of Birth: Manitowoc, Wisconsin
Parents: Zeno and Anita (Broecker) Tadych
Religious Profession: August 15, 1952
Date of Death: May 11, 2018
Age: 83
Years Professed: 65



Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Agnes Darlene Tadych was born at home, two months premature, on August 5, 1934 to Zeno and Anita (Broecker) Tadych in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Her parents and relatives did not believe she would live very long so within two days she was baptized three times. The official recording of the baptism at St. Mary's Church, according to her baptismal certificate, is August 12, 1934. She took the name, Anita, in memory of her mother, when she was confirmed by Bishop Bona at Sacred Heart Church in Manitowoc on April 11, 1948.

It seems that from little on she was called by her middle name, Darlene. Darlene was the oldest of three children, having two sisters, Dorothy and Caroline (Kitty). Her mother died when she was three years old. Her Dad remarried and the family was blessed with Lillian, whom they called "Mom," and another sister, Laverne.

Darlene attended St. Mary's School where the classes were taught in Polish by the Felician Sisters. Near the end of Second grade the family moved to the north side of Manitowoc. She finished her Second grade at St. Mary's and then attended Sacred Heart School from Third to Eighth Grade. This is where she met the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. She was particularly impacted by Sister Francis George Leibfried who was the principal at Sacred Heart School for Darlene's 7th and 8th grades. Later at the Convent, Sister Francis George was her Directress in various stages of Formation. Sister Francis George taught her that the 'small stuff' wasn't worth getting upset about. This was an invaluable life lesson to learn! Throughout her grade school years Darlene wanted to be a Sister. During her eighth grade she talked to her parents about entering the convent, however, they felt that at 12 years of age, she was too young. They told her to wait until she had completed at least one year of High School. Darlene went to Woodrow Wilson Junior High School for the Ninth Grade and then received her parents blessing to enter Holy Family Convent.

In a letter dated March 23, 1948 the following letter of recommendation was sent by her Pastor:
Sisters of St. Francis, Alverno, Wis.

Dear Sisters,

Agnes Darlene Tadych desires entrance into your Community. I can recommend her as a very desirable candidate. Her character is good and her scholarship ability is above average.

*Yours in Christ,
Rev. Louis M. Schorn, Pastor*

Darlene entered Holy Family Convent, as a Sophomore, on August 25, 1948 and received her High School Diploma from Holy Family Academy in 1951. Shortly after that, at the time of her Reception, June 13, 1951 Darlene received the name, Sister M. Renita, after one of the North American Martyrs.

Sister Renita earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Holy Family College in 1960 with a Major in English and minor in French. With additional study she also earned minors in History and Spanish. Sister went on to the University of Dayton in Ohio to earn a Master's Degree in English in 1972. Twenty years later in 1992, from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Sister Renita earned a Doctorate in English-Literature and Criticism. Her Dissertation was entitled, "The Franciscan Perspective in the Nature Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins Augmented by the Writings of John Duns Scotus."

Sister Renita loved being a Sister and a teacher. As a teacher she taught in Ohio, Michigan, California, Illinois, Nebraska, Arizona and Wisconsin. Sister Renita taught Elementary Grades for 13 years, High School for 16 years, 20 years in College and two years were spent as an Elementary School Librarian. Sister Renita also loved being a student. She prized the educational opportunities given to her which broadened her knowledge base and enabled her to share so much more with her students.

Since her dissertation covered Franciscanism in the Nature Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins she presented a course three different summers for Continuing Formation either for Audit or for credit. The past few years she has led Book Discussions. She was beginning to outline the book chosen for this summer, *Treasures Uncovered: The Parable of Jesus*. From her perspective now, many unknown treasures have been uncovered for Sister Renita.

When asked about her special talents, skills, hobbies and interests Sister Renita said she liked to knit, crochet, draw, play piano, sing, cook, read, sew and tutor. Sister Renita said, "God gave me many talents and I hope that by sharing them with others I can enhance their lives and their perspectives on life. My deepest joy, however, is not being a teacher, though that is a close second. My deepest joy is trying to be the religious the Lord wants me to be. Being able to see the good in things that happen and not 'sweating the small stuff'! ... When my health broke down and I could no longer go out to teach, I realized that this was part of the 'small stuff' and that the Lord would set it aright." Sister Renita earned many prestigious awards in her lifetime. In the past few years we can add the achievements of the International Sister Students whom she encouraged and challenged in her tutoring.

Since the time that Sister Renita entered Religious Life, her sole goal was to be the best Sister she could be. We know that she has lived more than nine lives, however, with each new challenge in her health decline her body became weaker. She responded to God's call to live the Gospel, pray for the ministry of Sister Renee Mirkes at Pope Paul VI Institute and serve God's people in St. Rita Health Center. She lovingly accepted her sufferings and limitations, participating in Christ's work of redemption. Her ultimate award was received on Friday, May 11th. In a new, fulfilled way she knows that: *The world is charged with the grandeur of God. Praise Him!*
Sister Renita, may you rest in peace. AMEN!