



Name: Sister Francine Goodman
Date of Birth: June 19, 1929
Place of Birth: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Parents: Alvin John and Ruth Margaret (Compty) Goodman
Religious Profession: June 14, 1949
Date of Death: June 5, 2018
Age: 88
Years Professed: 68

Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Mary Lois Goodman was the oldest daughter born to Alvin and Ruth (Compty) Goodman in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 19, 1929. She was baptized on July 7, 1929 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Milwaukee and confirmed at St. Anne's Church in Milwaukee on November 24, 1940.

Mary Lois, who was often referred to as Lois, had a younger sister, Barbara, and a younger brother, John. She was taught by the Notre Dame Sisters in grade school as well as in High School. Some of the Sisters recognized that God was possibly calling her to be a Sister and asked her if she thought of being a Sister. She replied, "That's a lovely compliment, but I don't think so." The truth was that Lois was thinking about being a Sister. She came from a family where religion and faith were important and central in the life of the family. There were a number of religious in her family, so this was an accepted vocational calling to follow. Lois was an inquisitive child and frequently asked her Mother questions about the spiritual life.

Mary Lois met the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity while she was attending Messmer High School in Milwaukee. Sister Jane Francis Doolan was one of the Sisters teaching there for a year. Sister Jane Francis heard from Lois' friends that she was interested in being a Sister. Sister Jane Francis invited Lois to go with her to visit Holy Family Convent. This visit gave Lois the affirmation she needed that this was where God was calling her to be a Sister. When she saw the Convent building she felt like she belonged here.

Mary Lois graduated from Messmer High School in June 1947. Shortly after this she wrote the following letter to Sister Mary Ellen:

I hope this letter finds Holy Family Convent the happy and peaceful place I learned it to be last May. Sister, I am sure now, that I want to join the Franciscans in September if they'd have me.

We certainly miss your sweet sister, Sister Jane Francis. Messmer isn't the same without her.

Do you think that Dione and I should be permitted to be present at reception of the girls in June? I pray it will be held before June the eighth for then, and the following week we won't be free. To see it would mean so much to me. God bless you, Sister, and the inspiring work I hope soon to be the smallest part of.

Yours sincerely, Lois Goodman

On August 1, 1947 the following letter of recommendation was written by Lois' pastor, Rev. W. J. Bronner:

Dear Sisters,

Lois Goodman, 2972 N.38th St. Milwaukee 10, Wisconsin has told me of her intention of entering your Convent, and has asked me for a letter of recommendation.

Lois Goodman comes from a very good and exemplary Catholic family. She has had the benefit of a good home training. She has always had an enviable record at our school.

It makes me very happy to be able to recommend her to your Community. I am sure you will always find Lois conscientious in her duties and faithful to her commitments.

Sincerely yours in Christ, W. J. Bronner

Lois entered Holy Family Convent on August 20, 1947. On her Reception Day, June 13, 1948 she received the name, Sister M. Francine. This name was suggested by Mother Inez Phelan. By coincidence or Divine Providence, the name of the Notre Dame Sister who prepared her for First Communion was Sister Francina.

Sister Francine attended Holy Family College and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Major in English and a Minor in Biology in 1958. In 1967 she earned a Masters of Arts Degree in Religious Education with a Major in Theology and a Minor in Scripture from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Sister Francine used her education to teach all levels of schooling and students of all ages and abilities. In one of the reflections at the time of her Jubilee she wrote, "I have loved every ministry assigned me, grade and high school teacher, Directress of Aspirants, Director of Religious Education, College Theology teacher and Pastoral Associate. Having been educated in the field of Theology seems to me to be almost a calling within a calling." Sister Francine would have been excited to participate in the New Evangelization efforts to help all people develop a relationship with Jesus enabling them to grow to be Missionary Disciples.

In 1978 Sister Francine was instrumental in co-directing the Ecumenical Special Religious Education Program for Handicapped and Special Needs Children of Manitowoc County. Sister Francine was a guest lecturer addressing Christians of various traditions on the role of parents/guardians in the formation of children's consciences, prayer, ecumenism and religious education. Sister Francine, served in the role of Pastoral Associate at Our Lady of Good Hope in Milwaukee. She considered it a great privilege to reach out to the vulnerable, especially the handicapped and the elderly.

Sister Francine loved life! She liked to read, do interpretive dance and ballet, swim and crochet. She liked to listen to religious tapes and was faithful to her Prayer Apostolate Assignment of praying for those in Formation and for Sisters involved in Vocation and Initial Formation Ministry. She will continue to intercede from her eternal resting place. Sister Francine left us these words, "The wonder of my vocation continues to amaze me. I never get tired of that call from God. Of all the wonders in the world that I have grace to see, none fills my heart more than the thought that God has chosen me! Religious life is still a wonderful mystery. Praise God!" Sister Francine, may you rest in peace!