

Name: Sister Colleen Sweeting (Sister Paulinda)
Date of Birth: July 1, 2036
Place of Birth: Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
Parents: Jacob Everette Sweeting and Marie Welmer
Religious Profession: August 15, 1955
Date of Death: December 26, 2018
Age: 82
Years Professed: 63



Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Colleen Magdalene Lilna Sweeting was born on July 1, 1936 in St. Agnes Hospital, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin to Jacob Everette and Marie (Wehmer) Sweeting. She was baptized as Colinetta Mary Magdalene Sweeting on July 11, 1936 in St. Claudius Catholic Church, St. Cloud, Wisconsin. Colleen took the name Rose when she received the Sacrament of Confirmation administered by Bishop Bona in Sacred Heart Church, Manitowoc, WI on May 29, 1951.

Colleen's siblings included her brothers Al and Paul, her sister, Karen and a half-brother, Jim. At a young age the family moved to Manitowoc. Colleen attended Sacred Heart School from First to Eighth Grades. This is where she met the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity who were her teachers. Colleen loved to stay after school to help the young Sisters with their many tasks. Their teasing, laughter and positive spirit were very heart-warming. She wanted to be a part of that happiness and joy. Along with the Franciscan Sisters and her Mother, Colleen's vocation was encouraged by her Grandmother. Colleen's Mother was the only daughter so her Grandmother lived with the family for several months at a time. Colleen's Mother and Grandmother taught her not to give up when life became challenging and difficult. They always assured her that it would get better. If she waited long enough, it did! Colleen's Grandmother had a deep prayer life which was an inspiration to Colleen.

In spring 1950 Colleen wrote the following letter to Mother Edna:

Dear Rev. Mother,

I am in the eighth grade and would like to enter the Convent this fall, if I meet with the qualifications.

Would you please send me the application blanks at your convenience? Thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Colleen Sweeting

In a letter dated August 15, 1950 her Pastor, Father Shorn, wrote the following recommendation:

To Whom It May Concern,

According to the records of Sacred Heart Church, Colleen Sweeting made her First Communion May 16, 1943. I can recommend her as a suitable candidate for the Sisterhood. She has been a frequent communicant at least every week or oftener. She comes of good parents and her motives seem to be very good.

Colleen was accepted and entered Holy Family Convent on August 22, 1950. She attended Holy Family Academy and received her High School Diploma in 1954. At the time of her Reception she received the name Sister Paulinda. After Vatican Council II she chose to return to her birth name, Sister Colleen. Sister Colleen attended Silver Lake College and earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1966 with a Major in Education and a Minor in English. She furthered her education at the University of Oshkosh earning a Master's Degree in Elementary Education in 1971.

Sister Colleen loved her years as an educator. In eleven years she taught every elementary grade except First Grade. Sister Colleen was a principal for 21 years. As the years went by, Sister Colleen's love for Scripture and Theology deepened. She became more interested in adult faith formation and wanted to minister in a different capacity in a Parish setting. Sister Colleen was granted the permission to attend Loyola University in Chicago. In 1990 she earned a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies.

After her studies were completed, there was an opening for a Pastoral Administrator in DeTour, Michigan. Sister Colleen ministered for ten years in the small towns of DeTour and Drummond Island. In 1999 Bishop James Garland appointed Sister Colleen to St. Christopher's Parish in Marquette, Michigan. This is where Sister Colleen ministered for 18 years. In an interview at the time of being missioned to St. Francis Convent for the 2017-2018 year, Sister Colleen told the *U.P. Catholic* reporter, "I most liked being with people in all of my assignments. I've liked being part of their lives, not just when they're sick and dying, but the good parts, too. I've worked with people of all ages, ministering to their spiritual and physical needs. It has been a wonderful opportunity, especially to live in Marquette, a college town. I will miss the spirit of the people. I will also miss being close to the water. I love water."

Sister Colleen enjoyed cross country skiing, camping, being outside in nature, reading, listening to music, cooking, watching Packer football games and visiting people to up-lift their spirits.

At the time of her Jubilee Sister Colleen wrote, "The Lord's Spirit is very evident in my everyday life. I thank the Lord for the gift of my vocation and the many people I worked side by side with as teacher, principal and pastoral coordinator. I have been given so many wonderful opportunities and I am grateful for each one. All is gift and my life has been deeply enriched by all of them. St. Paul expresses it so well in his letter to the Corinthians: *I give thanks to my God for the grace of God, bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in Him you were enriched in every way.*

In October Sister Colleen received her new missioning assignment to serve God's people in St. Rita Health Center by lovingly accepting her sufferings and limitations and participating in Christ's work of redemption. On Wednesday morning, the feast of St. Stephen, Sister Colleen gave herself up completely and handed herself over totally to our Lord. Like St. Stephen she "saw the heavens open and entered in."

We thank God for the gift of Sister Colleen's commitment and witness as a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. Sister Colleen, may you rest in peace. Amen!