

Name: Sister Gratia Hosfeld
Date of Birth: February 13, 1929
Place of Birth: Fredericksburg, Ohio
Parents: Cletus Joseph and Dora Emilia (Stutz) Hosfeld
Religious Profession: August 15, 1952
Date of Death: August 10, 2019
Age: 90
Years Professed: 66



Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Virginia Rose Hosfeld was born on February 13, 1929 to Cletus and Dora (Stutz) Hosfeld in Fredericksburg, Ohio. Virginia had two older brothers, Joseph and Bernard and two younger sisters, Theresa and Donna. She was baptized at St. Genevieve's Catholic Church, Calmoutier, Fredericksburg, in Holmes County, on February 17, 1929. Virginia received her First Holy Communion there on July 31, 1938 and the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 14, 1941.

Growing up, Virginia helped with work on the family farm. In her late teens and early twenties she worked for four years at Cletus Hospital in the Housekeeping Department. It was at this time that she discerned the call to become a Sister. She applied for admission to Holy Family Convent. Her Pastor wrote the following recommendation dated June 23, 1949:

Reverend and Dear Mother Edna,

I have a girl, twenty years old, who is thinking about joining your Convent. How should we go about it? What are the requirements? She found school to be difficult, however, if accepted, she plans on doing manual labor for the honor and glory of God. She is a good girl and is from one of my best families, a good Catholic home. She has a sister in nurses training at the Good Samaritan Nursing School in Zanesville. I am sure that she is choosing her vocation freely.

Sincerely yours,

Father Andrew H, Hohman, Pastor

Virginia was accepted and entered Holy Family Convent on August 20, 1949. On her Reception Day she received the name, Sister Gratia, which means "Grace." After her profession of Vows she worked in the Refectory at Holy Family Hospital for one year. The next 19 years she ministered at the Diocesan Seminary, Sacred Heart Seminary, in Oneida, WI. Monsignor John Schuh, who was at the Seminary during this time, always remembered Sister Gratia and all of her hard work. The Bishop had two tickets for the Packer games. When he was not able to

attend the game he gave the tickets to Monsignor Schuh to give to someone. At least once a year they were given to Sister Gratia. She would ask Sister Shirley Spilker to be her driver and go with her to the game. When they got to the seats on the Fifty Yard Line the men who were seated nearby would say, "Oh, we wondered who was going to be Bishop today!" So at least once a year, Sister Gratia was Bishop for a day!

Sister Gratia was an avid sports fan. She read sports news, especially if it had something to do with the Green Bay Packers or the Milwaukee Brewers. She knew statistics about the teams and the players. Another recreation she enjoyed was playing cards.

Amidst other Wisconsin mission assignments, Sister Gratia was able to help care for her Mother. Sister Gratia participated in the Prayer Apostolate, praying for the Sisters and people of Yuma, Arizona. She was humble and did not want to be in the lime-light. She enjoyed hosting periodic Pizza gatherings for the Sisters in her Crowd when she received a gift from her nephew.

In 2010 Sister Gratia experienced a decline in her health and moved to St. Rita Health Center. She shared her health concerns as she felt appropriate. The diagnosis of the blood clot in her leg last week was of great concern for her. She had a sense that this was very serious. She mentioned to one of the Sisters that she did not have much time. She told Jesus that she was ready for Him to come and get her when He was ready. Jesus was ready to welcome Sister Gratia home shortly after midnight on Saturday.

We thank God for Sister Gratia being a part of our Community. She responded to the call to live the life of a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. She was called to lovingly accept her sufferings and limitations to participate in Christ's work of Redemption. She gave herself up completely and handed herself over totally to Our Lord.

Eternal rest grant to Sister Gratia, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her, may she rest in peace. AMEN!