



Name: Sister Carol Diederich
Date of Birth: March 29, 1924
Place of Birth: Lindsay, Nebraska
Parents: Anthony Joseph and Sophie Rose (Greisen) Diederich
Religious Profession: August 15, 1942
Date of Death: January 27, 2020
Age: 95
Years Professed: 77

Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Lois Genevieve Diederich was born in Lindsay, Nebraska on March 29, 1924 to Anthony Joseph and Sophie Rose (Greisen) Diederich. She was baptized the following day, March 30th by Rev. Justinian Tugler, O.F.M. at Holy Family Church in Lindsay, NE.

After Lois completed First Grade at Holy Family School in Lindsay, the Diederich family moved to Monroe, located near Platte Center, NE, to operate a family farm. By this time there were ten living children, five girls and five boys. A brother Donald died when he was three months old. Each of the children had his/her chores. Lois usually had to make the evening meal as her mother was helping with the milking.

Religion was an important part of the Diederich family life. Christ was the center of the family. Daily, the family prayed together a morning and a night prayer. The daily Rosary was prayed during the season of Lent and the family prayed, the Sacred Heart Novena, the first nine days of every month.

Lois met the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity when she was in the First Grade at Holy Family School in Lindsay. From that early age Lois wanted to be a Sister like Sister Ethel Weber. When Lois was in the Third Grade her older sister, Henrietta, left for the Convent and became Sister Antonita. She left behind a vocation prayer that she prayed every day. Lois began to say this prayer every day, hoping that she too, would become a Sister. In March of her Eighth Grade, Lois' mother asked her if she still wanted to be a Sister. Lois was overjoyed that her mother remembered and supported her desire. Her mother helped her get ready to leave for the Convent after she graduated in June.

The following was a recommendation written by the pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Platte Center, NE. *This is to certify that Lois Diederich, was confirmed, Rita, in St. Anthony's Church, P.O. Platte Center by the Most Rev. James H. Ryan on the 30th day of September, 1936.*

Lois has been a member of St. Anthony's Parish for the past seven years, of unblemished character and without doubt, a worthy candidate for the sisterhood.

Rev. Joseph T. Bornauer, Pastor

Lois entered Holy Family Convent on June 13, 1938. On Reception Day, June 13, 1940, Lois received the name Sister Carol, in memory of her little brother, Carrol, who died at the age of two, the year before she left home. Two other siblings, Mary and Anna both died at childbirth before Carrol died.

Sister Carol completed her High School at Holy Family Academy in 1942. In 1951 she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics from Holy Family College and a Masters in Mathematics from St. Louis University in 1959. Sister Carol earned additional credits to keep up the required certifications by attending Summer School at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Viterbo College in LaCrosse, Ohio State University in Ohio and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Sister Carol enjoyed school. She loved teaching and was an excellent mentor for teachers and administrators. Throughout her life she was in the education apostolate. She began as an elementary teacher, then a teacher of math in high school. Eventually she was called to leadership as a High School Principal and then the Academic Dean at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family. Sister Carol decided that even if she was in administration she would still teach by having at least one class. She usually taught Math, however, for three years she also taught Art in West Point.

Sister Carol was a gifted artist! Her hobbies included needlepoint, artwork, painting, playing cards, visiting, canoeing and all outdoor activities. She initiated basketball and volleyball teams for the girls at Central Catholic High School in West Point. The excellence achieved by the girls' basketball teams brought them to the State finals for five years and winning the State championship four of those years.

At the time of her Jubilee, Sister Carol wrote, "As I reflect on my years in Religious Life, my heart is filled with gratitude to God who called me to this Community of Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. These have been years of growth in prayer and a relationship with the Lord. God has been good to me. I am also grateful to my Religious Community. I received so much to help me grow in the love of the Lord. Much has been given me in education to help me become a teacher in schools we served in Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio and Nebraska. I thank God for my Family, for my Sisters, especially for Sister Antonita. If it weren't for them, I would never be the person I am today."

In the past few years, Sister Carol did not speak much, however, she listened and observed. She spoke when it was necessary. She was aware of the needs of those around her and she prayed for them. Sister Carol took seriously her assignment to pray for the Sisters in Special Apostolates. Sister Carol was called to live the Gospel in our Franciscan Community and serve God's people in St. Rita Health Center. She lovingly accepted her sufferings and limitations, participating in Christ's work of redemption. On Monday night God called Sister Carol home. She gave herself up completely and handed herself over to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you, Sister Carol, for being an example and a witness of faithful living of your Vowed Commitment as a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. May you rest in peace.