



Name: Sister Juliana Weber  
Date of Birth: March 19, 1922  
Place of Birth: Taus, Wisconsin  
Parents: Frank and Anna (Kopidlansky) Weber  
Date of Death: March 20, 2020  
Age: 98  
Years Professed: 79

Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Florence Mary Weber was the oldest of eight children born to Frank and Anna (Kopidlansky) Weber in Taus, Wisconsin. Florence was born on March 19, 1922, the feast of St. Joseph, and was baptized at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Kellnersville on March 22, 1922. Florence took the name Lorraine when she was confirmed on April 11, 1938 by Bishop Paul P. Rhode.

Florence grew up in a farming family who held strong, Catholic values. The family rosary was prayed while kneeling around the kitchen chairs. Florence's mother taught the children their prayers and the Catechism was taught in the summers when they attended a week of Catechism in Kellnersville that was taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity.

Florence attended a one-room school house for first and second grade. In the third grade her parents transferred her to St. Patrick's Catholic School in Maple Grove to be prepared to receive the Sacraments, of her First Confession and First Holy Communion. This is where Florence once again came in contact with the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. She admired the Sisters and told Sister Mary Doris Cremers that she wanted to be a Sister.

For her fourth, fifth and sixth grades Florence attended St. Joseph's School in Kellnersville to accompany younger siblings who were preparing to receive the Sacraments. During these years Florence got to know the Sisters better. She especially grew close to her teacher, Sister Mary Mark Hoeller and confided in her the desire to be a Sister. The last two years of her elementary schooling were back in the one-room schoolhouse. Florence graduated from Riverside Public School on June 6, 1936. She did not go to high school because there wasn't any within a reasonable distance from her home.

Florence stayed at home to help her parents for one year. She never gave up the idea of wanting to be a Sister. She would recall the Manna Magazine story that she read in sixth grade that confirmed her desire to be a Sister. The story, "The Angel of the Convent," was the life of Sister Eulogia Wall from Askeaton, WI. She was a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity who died on January 19, 1923 at the age of 17 as a result of complications from the flu. Florence was willing to serve God in whatever way He wanted her to. She just wanted to be a Sister!

Florence had the blessing of her supportive parents when she entered Holy Family Convent on August 25, 1937. She completed her High School in Holy Family Academy, graduating in 1941. Florence was received into the Novitiate on June 15, 1938 and was given the name Sister Juliana.

Sister Juliana continued her studies at Holy Family College where on July 27, 1958 she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Major in History and a Minor in English. During those year of completing her degree she had teaching experience in Kaukauna, Oconto Falls, Manitowoc and Cleveland in the Diocese of Green Bay. After graduating from Holy Family College, she was missioned in Arizona. Sister Juliana taught and served as Principal at St. John's Boarding School in Komatke, near Phoenix, and San Jose and Pisinemo Missions near the Mexican Border.

Sister Juliana pursued further education earning a Master of Education Degree from Marquette University on December 21, 1968 with a specialization in Elementary School Administration and Supervision. From 1968 to 1990 Sister Juliana served as full time Principal in Santa Barbara, California, Topawa, Arizona and Kiel, Wisconsin. She participated in the teaching ministry of Jesus for 49 years, 29 of those years were spent in administration. Her greatest joy was working with the children and seeing them grow in their faith and in developing their talents. This was especially seen among the Native American children that she taught. When she returned to the Reservation in later years, many of her former students had leadership roles and were in professional positions in the Church and in their Tribe.

Sister Juliana loved to cook, bake, garden and make small repairs. After all those years in education she asked for a year off to do some of those things she was interested in. Sister's request was granted and she was missioned to Yuma where she served the Sisters as homemaker. Sister Carol Seidl recalled living there with Sister Juliana for seven years and shared that Sister Juliana "had a strong devotion to St. Joseph. She kept his statue on top of the fridge. If we came home and saw Joseph turned, facing the corner of the wall, we knew she had a special prayer intention for him. He didn't get turned around until it was answered."

At the time of her 75<sup>th</sup>, Diamond Jubilee Sister reflected, "I thank God for my vocation. Even though my motive for going to the convent was 'just to be a Sister,' that was a way the Lord was pulling me to Him and getting me to realize the greatness of His call. All the blessings I have received during my life are pure gift from God. I truly believe the words of Psalm 37:5-6; *Give yourself to the Lord; trust in him and he will help you. He will cause your goodness to shine as the light and your righteousness as the noonday sun.* That is exactly what He has done for me and is my prayer for our Franciscan Community. In these troubled times, the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity will shine as the noonday sun because it is placing its trust in God, the teachings of the Church and in the Charism of our Foundresses."

Sister Juliana served her Sisters with true Franciscan hospitality, a joy-filled, generous heart and a ready smile. Just as she welcomed people to the House of Prayer, while she ministered there, we can only imagine that Jesus welcomed her home with arms out-stretched, enthusiastically saying, "Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!" We thank God for the gift of the life of Sister Juliana and her witness of living the life of a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. Thank you, Sister Juliana, may you rest in peace!