



Name: Sister Miriam Dosch (Sister Hilaire)
Date of Birth: March 5, 1936
Place of Birth: Zanesville, Ohio
Parents: Francis Joseph and Hilaria Beatrice (Mehling) Dosch
Religious Profession: August 15, 1956
Date of Death: August 17, 2020
Age: 84
Years Professed: 64

Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Miriam Rita Dosch was the sixth of ten children born to Francis Joseph and Hilaria Beatrice (Mehling) Dosch on March 5, 1936 in Zanesville, Ohio. She was baptized at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Zanesville on March 22, 1936 by Father Joseph G. Bender. She was confirmed there on May 18, 1947 by Bishop Michael J. Ready.

Miriam grew up in a devout, Catholic family. Her father was employed at the newspaper and her mother took care of the family at home. She appreciated and loved all of her siblings. In her younger years she was more like a Tom-boy, playing ball and doing exciting things with her brothers, rather than doing the dishes! The family enjoyed playing card games, board games and singing while their mother played the piano. During the summer the family lived on a small farm. Here the Dosch children explored the nearby cave, climbed the hill to pick berries or worked in the garden, which grew the food to sustain them through the winter months.

Central to the family life was St. Nicholas Parish Church and School. Miriam and her siblings all attended St. Nicholas Grade School where they were educated by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. Rosecrans High School opened the fall that Miriam was a freshman. The teachers included the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity and the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, Ohio. The family lived in walking distance of the parish and school, so Miriam often attended daily Mass, sang for funerals and helped the Sisters in school.

Sister Oliver Allard was a major influence in Miriam's desire to become a Sister. Her Pastor, Father Dury, was also a strong supporter of vocations. After her junior year of high school, Father Dury drove five high school girls to Manitowoc to visit the Convent. Miriam loved the Convent; however, she had a job working for an accountant. She was torn as to whether to continue to work there or to pursue her desire to become a Sister.

During her senior year of high school Miriam made her decision. She wrote to Mother Edna for information and qualifications necessary to become a Sister. On May 5, 1954 Miriam wrote to Mother Edna thanking her for the literature and requesting an application blank. The following letter of recommendation from her pastor was dated June 30, 1954:

Dear Mother Edna:

Miss Miriam Rita Dosch, 120 Galigher St., Zanesville, OH, has asked me to write a letter of recommendation in her behalf relative to her joining the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. I am more than happy to do so. Mother, I'm sure you know those good solid Catholic families that are to be found in the vicinity of Manitowoc: this family is one like that which happens to live in St. Nicholas Parish. It makes one proud to be able to say they're friends of mine! I do not hesitate in the least to recommend most highly the daughter of such a family for the Sisterhood. I'm sure you will find Miriam the type of girl that will make one of the best of nuns. I know her father and mother will be more than proud to give their daughter to God for such a vocation. We will pray God to bless her abundantly as she enters into the Postulancy. May God bless and Mary Guide her to high things in the Convent life!

Very truly yours in Christ,

Linus J. Dury, Pastor

Miriam graduated from Rosecrans High School on May 30, 1954. With the blessing of her parents and family, Miriam was one of the five Zanesville girls who left for the Convent that August, following her graduation.

Miriam's days of formation were filled with prayer, religious instruction, academic classes and learning to live in Community as a Sister. On June 13, 1955 Miriam received the name, Sister Hilaire after her mother. After Vatican Council II gave the permission, Sister Hilaire returned to her Baptismal name and was known as Sister Miriam.

Sister Miriam received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1968 from Holy Family College with a Major in Education and a Minor in Math. She went on to earn a Masters Degree in 1972 from Ohio State University with a Major in Education, Guidance and Counseling. Sister Miriam was in Elementary Education for forty-four years. For a few years she taught part time at St. Nicholas School and was privileged to help take care of her widowed father before he died. For ten years Sister Miriam worked in Parish Pastoral Ministry visiting the sick and shut-ins in hospitals, nursing homes and their own homes. In 2013 she retired to the Motherhouse to serve the Sisters in whatever way would bring joy to their lives. Sister Miriam did not know a stranger. She loved being with people and serving them. In March 2015, Sister Miriam became a resident of St. Rita Health Center where she continued to share joy with others through her many stories.

In a Jubilee reflection Sister Miriam wrote, "I am grateful to my family who encouraged and supported me in my decision to become a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. On the day I was professed my Dad wrote a letter to me saying, *I have prayed for lots of years that one of my children would be a religious. You are the answer to my prayers.* I was truly touched and humbled, because I never knew he prayed for that intention." Sister Miriam continued, "I want to thank my brothers and sisters and my Sisters in Community for the love, support, encouragement and the many fun times we've had. The many happy memories are priceless and I truly treasure them. I pray that God will continue to use me to help people know Him better. As I reflect on the years gone by and watch the future unfold, I would encourage young women to listen for the Lord's voice in calling them to pick up the tapestry of their life, place their hand on the shuttle and let the Lord guide them in the weaving to become His presence to the world!" Thank you, Sister Miriam, for being the Lord's gift to us as a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity.