



Name: Sister Patrice Walsh (Sister Patrice Marie)
Date of Birth: August 28, 1936
Place of Birth: Eden, Wisconsin
Parents: Francis Henry and Agnes Gertrude (Ayers) Walsh
Religious Profession: August 15, 1955
Date of Death: October 29, 2020
Age: 84
Years Professed: 65

Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Elizabeth Jane Walsh was the third child born to Francis Henry and Agnes Gertrude (Ayers) Walsh on August 28, 1936 in Eden, Wisconsin. She was baptized Elizabeth Johanna on September 6, 1936 in St. Mary's Church in Eden. Elizabeth made her First Holy Communion on May 16, 1944 and was Confirmed on October 27, 1949 by Bishop Athielski.

Betty, as Elizabeth was called, had one brother and three sisters. She attended Lafayette Public Elementary School in Fond du Lac County and received her Diploma on May 21, 1949. Betty then entered the Aspirancy of the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee. After being an aspirant for two years, Betty was asked to leave because of health concerns. Her intention was to recover her strength at home, and then re-enter the Aspirancy in Milwaukee.

In the spring of 1952 Betty's parish received the *Sunday Visitor Vocation* Issue, which had an ad and an application form for the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. Betty cut out the ad and put it in her purse. Betty returned to Milwaukee to see Mother Corona to inquire about returning to the School Sisters of Saint Francis Aspirancy. Mother Corona told Betty that she should wait one more year before re-entering the School Sisters. Upon hearing this decision, Betty pulled the ad out of her pocket, which was completely filled out, requesting to enter the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. Betty asked Mother Corona if she would write a letter of recommendation for her application. Mother Corona commented, "Well, you are determined to be a Franciscan, aren't you!" Mother Corona did agree to write a letter of recommendation for Betty.

Betty wrote the following note to Mother Edna:

Dear Reverend Mother,

Received your information on your wonderful Convent. I'd like more specific information, please. Reverend Mother, I was wondering, if you would let me come to visit your Convent in the near future and talk to you? God bless you! Love, Betty Walsh

Betty's Pastor wrote the following letter of recommendation dated August 31, 1952:

To Whom It May Concern:

Miss Betty Walsh has expressed a desire to enter the Convent and has asked me, her pastor, to supply a letter of recommendation. This I do with pleasure, because Betty is a very good girl, faithful and true in every respect, regular in the reception of the Sacraments and in every way, a fine example to the Community in which she lives. Sincerely, Rev. Robert J. Anthony

Mother Edna did arrange for Betty to come and visit Holy Family Convent with her family on August 31st. After reading the recommendations from Father Anthony and Mother Corona, Mother Edna told Betty that if she brought her clothes, she could stay that day! With this verbal acceptance, Betty did go home to get her clothes and she entered Holy Family Convent the next day, September 1, 1952.

Betty completed her High School in Holy Family Academy, graduating in 1954. Shortly after graduation on June 13, 1954, Betty was received into the Novitiate. She was given the name Sister Patrice Marie. At the time of Vatican Council II when names could be changed, Sister Patrice Marie dropped the Marie part of her name and became known as Sister Patrice.

Sister Patrice earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Holy Family College May 17, 1970 with a Major in Elementary Education and a Minor in English. Sister earned further credits from the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, to fulfill requirements for Certification. Sister Patrice earned a Masters Degree in Religious Education from the University of San Francisco in California.

Sister Patrice often spoke of the great blessing she received in being able to teach in a variety of cultures in Wisconsin, Arizona and in Hawaii. Sister Patrice taught nine years in Wisconsin, thirty years in Arizona and two years in Hawaii. The people taught her so much. Life in the desert taught her to appreciate the simplicity of life. She held dear the memory of serving people who loved God and followed His way. They were a great witness and an inspiration that helped Sister Patrice grow closer to God. Sister Patrice loved her years of teaching, however, she found great fulfillment in doing Village Ministry and being a Parish Visitor. She was blessed to meet the elders, the sick and the shut-ins. Sister Patrice would spend time with them, let them know that they were important and bring them the Holy Eucharist.

In her Jubilee reflection Sister Patrice wrote, "I have so much for which to be grateful.

- I thank God for the many opportunities that I have enjoyed over my life.
- I thank God for my parents, my brother and sisters and all of my relatives who gave me the courage to pursue my vocation.
- I thank God for the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity for taking me in and giving me a second chance at Religious Life.
- I thank God for the many wonderful Sisters with whom I have lived, who supported me in many ways.
- I thank God for all the people He let come into my life to teach me what is important in life."

Sister Patrice leaves us with her favorite Scripture passage:

I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the Gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5)

Sister Patrice, we are grateful that the Holy Spirit guided you to the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. Thank you for being a Sister in our family. May you now enjoy your eternal reward.