



Name: Sister Paulita Adrian
Date of Birth: March 11, 1925
Place of Birth: Indianapolis, Indiana
Parents: George John and Edith K. (Kreutzer) Adrian
Religious Profession: August 15, 1950
Date of Death: October 27, 2020
Age: 95
Years Professed: 70

Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Dolores Louise Adrian was born on March 11, 1925 to George John and Edith (Kreutzer) Adrian in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was baptized in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes on March 22, 1925 by Father M. W. Lyons. She received the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Roch's Church in Indianapolis on May 5, 1935 from Rt. Rev. Joseph Chartrand.

Dolores grew up in a strong Catholic family. Dolores was the second oldest of six children. She had two brothers and three sisters. When she was three months old the family moved from the city to the country. Her Dad was a building contractor; however, he had a side interest, in starting an apple and peach orchard on twenty acres of land. The whole family became involved in that venture. When the apples were in season, Dolores and her sister worked behind the cider bar on weekends.

Dolores and her siblings attended St. Roch School where they were taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet from St. Louis, Missouri. After completing grade school Dolores went to an all-girls school, St. Mary's Academy, which was staffed by the Franciscan Sisters from Oldenburg, Indiana. After graduating from high school in 1943, Dolores worked for four years in the main office of a trucking company and one year for the Indiana Bell Telephone Company in the Directory Advisement Department, the Yellow Pages of the telephone book.

Dolores came to know the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity through the Assistant Pastor of St. Roch Parish, Father Cronan Murphy, OFM who was originally from Petoskey, Michigan and was taught by our Sisters. Father was in charge of the Catholic Youth Organization, of which Dolores was an active member. One day the topic of Religious Vocation came up and Dolores told Father of her childhood desire to be a Sister. Father gave Dolores addresses of several Communities to begin her search, including one for our Community.

In a letter dated July 14, 1948 Dolores wrote:

Dear Sister Mary Ellen,

I received your letter and literature regarding the requirements and works of your Community. I have read it all thoroughly and I am very much interested. As you can tell from the enclosed letters I have seen my Pastor and Assistant Pastor on this matter. Also, enclosed is a letter from our family doctor. You

can tell by this, that I have already gone through a physical examination before I wrote to you for information.

Now to answer the questions that you have asked of me in your letter. I graduated from St. Roch's grade school in 1939 and from St. Mary Academy in 1943. I have been doing office work since my graduation from high school. I am 23 years old and have two brothers and two sisters. I had another sister, one year younger than me, who died when she was 20 days old.

As to how long I have thought of the Religious Life, I cannot really say. It has been my desire since I was in grade school. In regards to visiting and seeing a Community in action, I have visited the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis at Oldenburg, Indiana several times, to see a girl friend of mine who entered there. However, I have had closer contact with the Community that taught me in grade school which is the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in St. Louis, Missouri. I applied for admission to that Community after graduating from high school, but was rejected because of my cardiac condition.

I hope that by this information and enclosed letters I have fulfilled your request. If they meet with the approval of your Community, would you please send me your application?

*Sincerely,
Dolores Adrian*

Dolores' Pastor wrote the following letter of recommendation dated July 14, 1948:

Ven. Sister Mary Ellen, O.S.F., Mistress of Candidates, Dear Sister:

Miss Dolores Adrian, of this Parish, has requested a letter of recommendation for entrance into your Community. Dolores has been a faithful member of the Parish all her life, and has been very active in the Catholic Youth Organization. At present, she is the Treasurer of the Citywide Council of the CYO, a credit to her and to the Parish. Since graduation from Catholic High School, she has been employed in clerical work by the Bell Telephone Company. Her business experience should be of value to your Community.

Dolores applied for admission to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis, Missouri, after High School. At that time, her physician indicated a slight heart ailment. The Sisters of St. Joseph did not accept her. Now, five years later, the same physician finds the condition corrected and unreservedly recommends her, as his report will indicate. Dolores has led a normal and active life all this time. She is capable of the effort and strain occasioned by the Religious Life.

It is my sincere hope that you will receive Dolores into your Community. I believe that she has a true vocation to the service of God in Religious Life.

*Sincerely in St. Francis,
Fr. Omer Bruck, O.F.M.*

Dolores' Assistant Pastor wrote a letter of recommendation for Dolores dated July 14, 1948.

Dear Sister Mary Ellen:

It was with real pleasure that I learned that Dolores had accepted my suggestion to apply for admission to your Community. The good Sisters from Manitowoc were responsible for my Grade School education in Petoskey, Michigan. I believe that Sister Anthony, Sister Josita, Sister Gabriel and Sister Regis are still living. Please give them my best regards.

You will find that Dolores is all that the Pastor says of her. She has been very valuable to me in the Youth work here. We need active, yet spiritually minded girls in Religious Life.

Sincerely in St. Francis, Fr. Cronan Murphy, O.F.M.

Dolores was accepted and her parents brought her to Holy Family Convent on August 25, 1948 to begin her Postulancy. This was the first time that Dolores saw the Motherhouse and met any of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. Dolores took classes at Holy Family College during her year as Postulant. On June 13, 1949 Dolores was received into the Novitiate and was given the name Sister Paulita.

Sister Paulita graduated from Holy Family College on July 26, 1959 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Sister had a Major in Biology and a Minor in History. In furthering her studies, Sister Paulita attended the University of San Francisco in San Francisco, California where in 1981 she earned a Master's Degree in Private School Administration. Sister Paulita also took classes at Chaminade College of Honolulu and from Arizona State University.

Sister Paulita was grateful for the opportunity to participate in God's work by teaching in elementary schools and administrating as Principal. Sister Paulita was privileged to serve in Hawaii, Arizona, California, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin. She was grateful for all the wonderful students, parents and friends at these various missions. Each mission experience showed her the various ways God worked in her life and in the lives of others.

Sister Paulita learned Computer Skills that were well used in helping others to learn this technology. When Sister Paulita "retired" to St. Francis Convent in 2003 she was given the assignment to help the Sisters with basic computer skills: using the internet, email, word processing and related skills.

In Sister Paulita's jubilee reflection she wrote, "Being retired means that I have time to relax and spend extra time in prayer and to strengthen my relationship with God. Having St. Paul as my patron Saint, I like his words, 'I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me.' (Galatians 2:20). Another favorite of mine is, 'My God and my All!' I am grateful to all the members of our Community for the educational and spiritual opportunities they have given me. These have been blessed years."

Sister Paulita moved to St. Rita Health Center in November 2016. She was a member of the Prayer Apostolate praying for Holy Family Memorial Medical Center. We trust that she will continue to intercede for the patients and employees along with the needs of this Sponsored Ministry.

Sister Paulita never lost her sense of humor. She was always appreciative of the care that she received. Sister Paulita lived the Gospel in our Franciscan Community. She lovingly accepted her sufferings and limitations, participating in Christ's work of redemption. Sister Paulita gave herself up completely and handed herself over to our Lord on Tuesday night. When Jesus came to take her home, He heard her say, "My God and my ALL!"

Sister Paulita, we are grateful that the Holy Spirit led you to become a member of our Community. Please intercede for other young women to respond to God's call to become a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. Thank you for your faithful witness and loving presence. May you rest in peace.

AMEN!