



Name: Sister St. Agnes Stuttgen
Date of Birth: December 25, 1919
Place of Birth: Suring, Wisconsin
Parents: Phillip Servatus and Agnes Bertha (Jacobs) Stuttgen
Religious Profession: August 15, 1940
Date of Death: November 23, 2020
Age: 100
Years Professed: 80

Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Lucille Charlotte Stuttgen was born in Suring Wisconsin on December 25, 1919 to Philip Servatus and Agnes Bertha (Jacobs) Stuttgen. She was baptized at St. Michael Catholic Church in Suring on January 10, 1920. When Lucille was confirmed she took the name Veronica. Lucille's siblings included four sisters, one brother and a child who died before birth. Lucille was especially fond of her sister, Rita, who was affectionately called "Peaches."

When Lucille was born, the family lived in a farmhouse in the town of Bagley, Wisconsin. Lucille began first grade in the public school in Bagley with one other girl. The summer after first grade the family moved to a farm about five miles from Oconto Falls. The house had burned before they moved, so the family lived in the granary until the house was rebuilt. Lucille attended a one-room school, Sunny Slope School, in Swede Town in Oconto County for grades two to eight, to obtain her Elementary School Diploma on May 23, 1933. Lucille and her older siblings, Rosella and Frank, were not able to go to High School, because they lived too far from the school. Lucille stayed home and helped with farm work and housework.

Lucille's mother was very concerned about the spiritual needs of the country children. The Stuttgen family had nightly prayer. The children would take turns getting the Holy Water and making the sign of the cross on the forehead of each family member. Lucille's mother asked the Pastor for the children, who could not attend the Catholic School, to have catechism classes. Because of the insistence of Lucille's mother, the children did have catechism classes and Lucille was able to make her First Holy Communion on May 25, 1930, when she was 12 years old.

On Holy Thursday it was customary to have all day Adoration. One person from a family was chosen to represent the family. Lucille was chosen when she was 17 years old. She took her lunch and spent the day in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This was the day in 1937, when Lucille was convinced that God was calling her to be a Sister. That June, when Rita graduated from eighth grade Lucille said to her, "How about the two of us going to the Convent together?" Rita told their mother, which opened up the conversation with her family. Lucille's mother told Lucille that if she went to the Convent, Rita would not be able to go to High School. This was hard for Lucille to hear. She was ready to give up the idea of being a Sister, but her mother reminded her that she had stayed home for four years after finishing grade

school. The solution was to pray about this decision until August. When August came, the desire to be a Sister remained as strong as ever. Lucille and her mother went to talk with Father Melchior. Lucille had seen a picture in a magazine and told Father that she wanted to go to Missouri and be a Benedictine Sister. Father invited Lucille and her mother to go to Manitowoc to visit the Sisters where his sister was. On August 10, 1937, they did make the trip to Manitowoc. When the visit was over, Mother Generose gave Lucille application papers.

Lucille returned the application papers and entered Holy Family Convent on August 20, 1937. On her Reception Day, June 15, 1938, Lucille received the name Sister St. Agnes. She found out that her mother had always wanted to be a Sister, but her father would not allow it. Her mother always prayed that one of her daughters would be a Sister and would get the name Agnes, the name of her own mother after whom she had been named. Sister St. Agnes' mother got her wish that day!

Sister St. Agnes completed her High School education at Holy Family Academy in 1941. She continued her education at Holy Family College earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree on July 26, 1959 with a Major in Education and a Minor in English. Sister St. Agnes taught all grades from first grade to eighth grade, with an emphasis being in the intermediate grades. She taught in Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio for 44 years before moving to Holy Family Convent to work in Community Service for 12 years. Sister St. Agnes moved to St. Rita Health Center in 2010 and was a member of the Prayer Apostolate praying for the Green Bay Ministries.

In her jubilee reflection Sister St. Agnes wrote, "God has been so good to me. I have so much for which to be thankful. I will always be grateful to Rita for sacrificing so much for me. Sometimes I wonder why God chose me and not one of my other sisters to be a Sister. Only He knows! I am grateful to my family and to all my Sisters in Community. What greater peace could a Sister have? We are His by our Vows. We don't have to worry that He'll leave us or be unfaithful. He's the Greatest! He is more interested in me, than I am in myself."

Sister St. Agnes looked forward to celebrating her 100th birthday. At different times she thought she was not going to live that long, so she asked permission to celebrate early. Permission was granted, and September 15, 2019 was the chosen day. This arrangement accommodated her family as well. Winter cold, ice and snow did not have to be part of the planning. Her real birthday, Christmas Day, was equally important and was celebrated in grand, Franciscan style! This year she will celebrate from her eternal resting place with Our Lord.

Thank you, Sister St. Agnes, for being our Sister. We are grateful that you met the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. The beginning of October you tested positive for the Covid-19 virus and you recovered. You were cured! You stayed in the Covid-19 Unit to get the care you needed. You brought joy, consolation and comfort to all who joined you there. You have participated in Christ's work of redemption. On Monday morning you completed your earthly journey and gave yourself up completely, handing yourself over to Our Lord. May you rest in peace.