



Name: Sister Paschal Baylon Klarkowski
Date of Birth: December 7, 1928
Place of Birth: Green Bay, Wisconsin
Parents: Peter and Viola (Kendziorski) Klarkowski
Religious Profession: August 15, 1946
Date of Death: May 7, 2022
Age: 93
Years Professed: 75

Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Alice Mary Klarkowski was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin on December 7, 1928 to Peter and Viola (Kendziorski) Klarkowski. Father Paul Weismann baptized her Mary Alice at St. Mary of the Angel's Catholic Church in Green Bay on December 16, 1928. She chose the name, Theresa, when she was confirmed by Bishop Paul Peter Rhode at St. Philip the Apostle Church on May 1, 1942.

Alice had 6 brothers and one sister. Her sister, Adeline, welcomed her and called her, "my Patsy." She was called Patsy or Pat, however, when she went to school, she was called Alice. Alice attended St. Mary of the Angels School in Green Bay. In Fifth Grade she broke her leg and was hospitalized for several weeks which was followed by several weeks of recuperating at home. One of the Sister nurses from the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis in Springfield, Illinois who was caring for Alice asked her what she wanted to be when she grew up. She said that she wanted to be a nurse or a Sister. The Sister's response was that if Alice joined her Community, she could be both.

The next school year Alice transferred to the newly opened St. Philip School, which was staffed by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. She repeated the Fifth Grade because of missing so much school during her time of recuperation from her broken leg. Alice admired the kindness and happiness of Sister Julitta Hennes, the Principal, and her teachers Sister Muritta Bendykowski and Sister Gladys Bauer. She wanted to be like them. With the blessing of her parents, Alice wrote the following letter:

Dear Mother Perpetua,

I'm thinking of entering the Convent when I graduate. I'm fifteen years of age. I'll be sixteen in December. Do you think it would be all right for me to come to the Convent after I graduate this year or do you think I should wait till I get my High School education? I'm planning to come some time in the summer, although I don't know when is the best time to come. I go to St. Philip School and it's a grand school. From what I heard about the Convent, it seems to be a very beautiful place.

*Very sincerely yours,
Alice*

The following letter of recommendation was dated March 10, 1944:

Dear Mother Perpetua,

In justice to Alice Klarkowski, as her pastor, I recommend her highly. Alice is pious and an industrious girl. She comes from a good Catholic family. If the Religious Life is her vocation, I feel certain that she will become an exemplary nun.

*Sincerely,
Rev. Theo. H. Verbeten*

Alice was accepted and entered Holy Family Convent on August 20, 1944 and began her High School education in Holy Family Academy. On June 14, 1945 Alice was received into the Novitiate. The only name Alice asked for was Sister Mary Martha, however, the name she was given was Sister Paschal Baylon.

Sister Paschal Baylon completed her High School in 1949. In the summer of 1949 she took two classes at Holy Family College. One was the Ward Singing Method and the other was The Principles of Education. These courses prepared her for her first teaching assignment that fall, at St. Anne School, Francis Creek. Sister Paschal Baylon completed most of her College education in 16 summers, until the last year and a half of required work when she became a full-time student to complete her degree. On May 21, 1967 she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree with a Major in Elementary Education and a Minor in Social Science. Sister Paschal Baylon taught primary grades in Wisconsin for 35 years before being asked to minister in the newly established Health Clinic at the Motherhouse where she served for 13 years. Her next assignment was serving as an assistant in St. Rita's Clothing Department for 14 years.

When asked about her special talents, skills, hobbies and interests, Sister Paschal Baylon shared that she enjoyed crossword puzzles, reading, cooking, baking, cleaning and teaching First Grade! Sister Paschal Baylon enjoyed serving her Sisters in any way possible. In her Jubilee reflection she wrote that Religious Life was an enriching experience filled with joys, sorrows, peace, gratitude and surprises. All of these opportunities helped her to grow closer to Our Lord and to serve His people. Sister Paschal Baylon was grateful to her parents, sister and brothers for their love, prayers and support in the life God called her to. She was grateful that God called her to be a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity.

Sister Pascal Baylon became a resident in St. Rita Health Center in 2019. She lived her life like the Sisters who influenced her Vocation. Sister Pascal Baylon was kind and happy, a beacon of joy to everyone she met. In a visit on July 25, 2021 Sister Pascal Baylon was reflecting on her declining health. She said, "I picture myself as a flower with all these petals. As each petal unfolds, I grow and develop. I must be a Chrysanthemum, since I am as old as I am and my petals are still unfolding. I think that life is like going to school. As I pass life's tests, I go on to the next grade, until I finally die and then death is graduation."

On Saturday afternoon, May 7, 2022, Sister Paschal Baylon completed her last test on earth of lovingly accepting her sufferings and limitations, participating in Christ's work of redemption. She gave herself up completely and handed herself over totally to our Lord for her graduation into the next life. Sister Paschal Baylon, thank you for being our Sister and for witnessing what it means to be a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. May you enjoy your graduation party with all the Angels and Saints in Heaven. May you rest in peace. AMEN!