

Name: Sister Maureen Bomaster (Sister Mary Adell)
Date of Birth: September 17, 1941
Place of Birth: Stambaugh, Iron County Michigan
Parents: Thomas James and LaVerne Adell (Begress) Bomaster
Religious Profession: August 15, 1961
Date of Death: January 31, 2024
Age: 82
Years Professed: 62



Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Maureen Ann Bomaster was born on September 17, 1941 in Stambaugh, Iron County, Michigan to Thomas James and La Verne Adell (Begress) Bomaster. She was baptized at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Gaastra, Michigan on October 5, 1941. She received the Sacrament of Confirmation there, on July 22, 1953.

Gaastra, where Maureen grew up, is a small town, near Iron River in the U.P. of Michigan. Maureen had two younger sisters, Diane and Adell or Dollie, as she was called, and one younger brother, Don. Their Dad was quiet and patient, and worked as an iron ore miner, and had farming as a hobby. He enjoyed baseball and playing cards. Their Mom was loving and had a deep faith in God. She made sure that the family got to church every Sunday. Maureen learned from her Mom the importance of being self-sacrificing, charitable to others and being orderly and prompt.

Maureen attended the Gaastra Public Schools and graduated from Stambaugh High School in 1959. She became acquainted with the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity when the Sisters catechized for two weeks in the summer. The Sisters taught in the Town Hall, the Sacristy, Church pews and choir loft. Maureen was especially fond of Sister Claude DeMario who was kind, gentle and caring.

Maureen's vocation story evolved in a round-about way. It was her sister, Diane, who initially spoke of wanting to be a Sister. She wrote several letters to Sister Una (Sister Kathryn Scheu) and to a pen-pal that Sister Una gave to her. After eighth grade, Diane, decided she would get married and have children. A Capuchin Franciscan gave a Mission at St. Mary's Church. He spoke about Vocations and ended his enthusiastic preaching by saying, "God is calling someone out there!" "Not me, Lord!" Maureen said to herself. The thought of being a Sister kept coming back to Maureen. Maureen read over the letters that Diane had received from her pen-pal. Maureen found out that "When God has His Eye on you, He will let you know."

Mother Agna received the following letter March 12, 1959:

Dear Mother M. Agna,

I have been writing to Sister Una, who has been very helpful to me and she told me that the first thing I should do was to write to you asking for permission to join you in Convent life. Would you please send me the application blanks that I must fill out?

I would like to come to the Convent very much. I am not real sure, but then I guess no one is really sure in this world. I do hope the Lord is calling me and that I will be able to carry out His plans.

We had a very big snow storm today with a strong north wind. It was a very nice day for us today for our school was closed. Do you have much snow in Wisconsin? What does the scenery near the Convent look like? Are there very many trees or woods near the Convent? I just love the woods.

I hope I will be able to enter the Convent and I'd like to thank you very much for your help.

Love,

Maureen Bomaster

The following letter of recommendation was sent to Mother Agna dated May 14, 1959:

Dear Mother Agna,

It gives me great pleasure to recommend to you, Maureen Bomaster of this parish, as a worthy candidate for your order of Sisters.

Maureen Bomaster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bomaster of Gaastra, Michigan, for some time had expressed her desire to enter a Convent. She has finally decided to take that step and wishes to become a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity.

A very devout Catholic, regularly seen at the Communion table, an excellent student, Maureen gives evidence of one possessing all the qualities of a very good member of your order. I know of no impediment, which would in any way, bar her admission to your order. I do highly recommend her to you.

Any further information, if needed, will be gladly forwarded. With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Frank J. Ignatz, Pastor

Maureen's parents gave their blessing for her to enter the Convent. On August 30, 1959, her family brought her to the Convent. It was a sad parting, however, with letter writing, they were convinced that she would be okay and that she was happy. On June 13, 1960, Maureen was received into the Novitiate and received the name, Sister Mary Adell, after her Mother's middle name and her little sister's name. At the time of Vatican Council II, she returned to her baptismal name, Maureen, which was her Mom's favorite name choice.

Sister Maureen continued studies at Holy Family College where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1968 with a Major in Education and a Minor in Social Studies. Sister Maureen also took classes at Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa and Viterbo College.

Sister Maureen's first eleven teaching years were at St. Philip School in Green Bay where Sister Justinian Hoegerl was the Principal. She considered Sister Justinian a lifetime role model. Sister Maureen taught grades 1 and 2 in Wisconsin for about 25 years. Having taught at Holy Angels in Chicago for two years, before returning to teach in Wisconsin, she wrote, "I would like very much to be of service in an inner-

city school as a Primary Grade Teacher, preferably first grade. I am very interested in this soon, while I have the strength and good health.” She did return to Holy Angels in Chicago where she taught reading to children who were falling behind in their grade level. The following is quoted from a formal yearly evaluation of Sister Maureen. “Sister not only teaches reading skills, but instills values of love and reverence for God and the things of God. She inspires the children to respect one another, to live honestly and strive with self-confidence in their daily work.”

In Sister Maureen’s words, “Another loving ministry was working with Sister Sara Hale in the Outreach on weekends. We brought food, clothing and shoes to the High Rises. We helped families sitting on the curb at night, evicted from their homes, with food, money or clothes. Sister Sara drove the truck until we found a homeless shelter for them. Work in Chicago and its lifestyle would never be possible without the grace of God. It is a Ministry of the Moment!”

After leaving Chicago, Sister Maureen tutored and taught in the Religious Education Programs in Two Rivers and in Manitowoc. She was also appreciative of the times she was able to teach Catechism in the summer Religion Program in Spaulding, Michigan.

When her health declined in 2016, Sister Maureen became a resident in St. Rita Health Center. She was faithful to her mission of praying for St. Francis of Assisi Parish and The Roncalli Schools. She lived the Gospel in our Franciscan Community serving God’s people by lovingly accepting her sufferings and limitations, participating in Christ’s work of redemption. On January 31st, Sister Maureen gave herself up completely and handed herself over totally to our Lord to live with Him forever.

Eternal life grant to Sister Maureen, O, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace.
Amen!