



Name: Sister Alice Marie Hickok
Date of Birth: October 27, 1939
Place of Birth: Green Bay, Wisconsin
Parents: Marlyn Ashley and Marie (Mary) Alice McLaughlin Hickok
Religious Profession: August 15, 1959
Date of Death: March 18, 2025
Age: 85
Years Professed: 65

Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Joyce Anne Hickok was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin on October 27, 1939 to Marlyn Ashley and Marie (Mary) Alice McLaughlin Hickok. She was baptized at Saint Anthony Church in Oconto Falls, Wisconsin on November 12, 1939. She received the name Elizabeth at the time of her Confirmation on April 19, 1953. The Sacrament was conferred at St. Joseph Parish Church in Green Bay by Most Rev. Stanislaus V. Bona.

Joyce had an older sister, Phyllis, and a younger brother, Keith. St. Agnes Parish, in Green Bay, was the home parish for the Hickok family. Joyce got to know the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity when she attended St. Joseph's Catholic School in Green Bay. Her parents had little opportunity for their own education, however, they worked hard for Joyce, her sister and brother to have a faith filled home life and a Catholic education. Joyce was fond of the Sisters who taught at St. Joseph's School. When she was in the sixth grade, her teacher, Sister Ladislaus Lewand, asked her to deliver a message to the principal, Sister Mary Jane Schuster. Before Joyce left to deliver the note Sister Ladislaus said to her, "You know, I am getting old; I need someone to take my place, and I know that you are going to be the one." Joyce had been thinking about being a Sister. Sister Ladislaus confirmed that this was God's call for her.

When Joyce was in eighth grade, she talked to her parents about being a Sister. Her parents felt she was too young to know what she wanted to do with her life, however, they did not stop her from pursuing her desire to become a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. Her Dad assured her that they would always support her with prayer and that the door would always be open to her, if Convent life was not God's call for her.

Joyce wrote the following letter *dated* April 15, 1954:

Dear Sister Mary Ellen,

I am a girl from St. Joseph School in Green Bay. My name is Joyce Hickok. I will graduate from the eighth grade this year.

I would like to become a Sister. My purpose for this is to learn to serve God better. My aim is to teach little ones about God. I would like to enter in August.

I would be really happy, if you would send me a list containing the things one must have before entering.

*Sincerely,
Joyce Hickok*

The following letter of recommendation, dated August 13, 1954, came from her Pastor:

Dear Mother Edna,

It is my pleasure to recommend Joyce Hickok, as a Candidate for the Sisterhood. I understand that she has had Catholic School training and I know that she comes from a very religious family.

She is our first candidate from St. Agnes Parish, so I feel justifiably proud in recommending her to you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Reverend Alvin A. Auer, Pastor

Joyce was accepted and entered Holy Family Convent on August 22, 1954. She attended Holy Family Academy to complete her High School education, graduating June 1, 1958. Joyce entered the Novitiate on June 13, 1958, at which time she received the habit and was given the name, Sister Alice Marie.

Sister Alice Marie continued her education at Holy Family College, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree on May 18, 1969, with a Major in Latin and a Minor in English. She attended Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa where on July 24, 1970, she earned a Master of Arts Degree with a concentration in Reading.

Sister Alice Marie was deeply committed to teaching and was drawn to make sure she did everything she could to enable every student to master academic requirements, especially skills for reading. She was a classroom teacher for students, primarily in grades one to four, for 30 years. Sister Alice Marie served as a Reading Specialist in Topawa and in Yuma, Arizona, a Reading Consultant in West Covina, California. Sister Alice Marie had a deep love for ministry in the Southwest, however, she did return to Wisconsin to serve at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family, where she was a part-time tutor in the Special Education Clinic and eventually, became the Director of the Clinic. Sister Alice Marie worked to acquire grants for the Special Education Clinic to assist new and seasoned teachers in educating students with special needs. Many students and teachers have been impacted by Sister Alice Marie.

When Sister Alice Marie's health was in decline, she returned to Holy Family Convent, when in December 2008, she became a resident of St. Rita Health Care Center, where she lovingly accepted her sufferings and limitations to participate in Christ's work of redemption. In her Jubilee reflection Sister Alice Marie wrote, "My life was built on dedication to God with membership in this Community of Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. I am grateful, thankful and truly rejoice in God's love."

For her 60th Jubilee in 2019, the Diocese of Green Bay newspaper, *The Compass*, asked the Sisters to offer advice on faithful living. Sister Alice Marie responded, "It is a good life; come and see and live with us. Pray with faith and minister in, and with, love and trust and listen with hope." May some young woman read and hear Sister Alice Marie's comment. May this advice plant a seed for her vocation, just like Sister Ladislaus' comment did for her.

Sister Alice Marie, thank you for your witness to us as a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. May you enjoy your heavenly reward with all the Angels and Saints with God. Eternal life grant to Sister Alice Marie, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.