



In Loving Memory

Sister Carla Rose Scheider

Sister Carla Rose's autobiography reads, "The air was cold and brisk that morning in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, but the hearts of Carl and Rose (Studinski) Scheider were warm and overflowing with happiness. It was early, December 20, 1939, as they looked upon the tiny form of their first child, a seven-pound baby girl later baptized and given the name Lona Lee." Her sister Diane Marie joined the family two years later. Then when Lona Lee was about to enter fifth grade, a second sister, Mary Ann, completed the family.

Birth
December 20, 1939

Baptism
December 31, 1939

Profession
July 14, 1959

Death
March 21, 2020

Burial
Notre Dame of Elm Grove
Cemetery,
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

Little Lona Lee attended the first grade at St. Stephen School. It was also the beginning of her eight years being taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. As to her vocation to be a sister, Sister Carla Rose has said, "It has always been my heart's desire to be a School Sister of Notre Dame. Due to family circumstances, I was unable to enter the aspiranture until after high school graduation." She enrolled as a freshman at St. Joseph Academy, taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph, who were from Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Later, this school was named Maria High School after the Marian Year.

Finally, after graduation she could then prepare for her entrance into the Candidature, she remembered that day fondly, "It was about the hottest day all summer and I was to don a long serge dress with long sleeves, long cotton stockings, and a stiff white collar. Because of the uncomfortable feeling one gets when wearing new clothes and because of the drenched look I was unsuccessful in hiding, my poor family probably felt hotter than I did."

As those who are classmates of Sister Carla Rose probably know, they were on the edge of change when she first entered. Just after they were received as novices on July 1, 1958, they moved to a new house in October. "The novitiate wing was the only section completed," she says. "The rest of the building went up around us, so the chapel was ready for Profession on July 14, 1959. Our first year of juniorate was in Mequon, Wisconsin, and the second at Mount Mary College."

Her first year of teaching was at St. Mary's in De Pere, Wisconsin. After only one year she was transferred to St. Nicholas in Freedom, Wisconsin. She was asked, in addition, to do church work, to be in charge of servers, and to catechize on Saturday mornings in Bear Creek, Wisconsin. It was there that she made final vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame.

During this time, another change for her was the new way of teaching in elementary schools. She says, "We restructured the primary grades one, two, and three to be in the same classroom and we carried this program for four years.

Sister continued teaching at various schools in the area, teaching grades two through four. Those assignments included: eight years at St. Francis Xavier in Green Bay, Wisconsin; five years at Green Bay Catholic Central; three years

continued

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at St. Bernard in Green Bay; and one year at St. John the Baptist in Howard, Wisconsin. From 1986-1996, Sister Carla Rose served as a reading specialist at Holy Cross in Kaukauna, Wisconsin.

After that time, another form of ministry opened its doors to her when she served on our Provincial Assembly. Around this time, she had nudges through the years toward Germany and Japan. She had spent two months with the sisters of Japan in 1989, and felt a real attraction to the people and their culture. After participating in a Cross-Cultural Workshop in the summer of 1993, she decided to get some training in spiritual direction, thinking that she would close the teaching chapter of her life. Somehow, after the training in Spiritual Leadership, she returned to teaching in Union Grove, Wisconsin, for another ten years.

After teaching her last time, she chose to do volunteer work for another ten years with Rising Stars and with The Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin, Enrichment Center every Wednesday.

Her Rising Stars tutor friends at Mesmer St. Rose in Milwaukee, say that she was charismatic, faithful and concerned for the well-being of others. She had an open, loving heart, and she had an ability to see a need and to fill it. She could be an instant friend upon meeting her; she was knowledgeable, welcoming, and had a little spunk in her. She could really make us laugh, and she was a real blessing to students who found learning difficult. She had a gift for producing stomach-aching laughter as well as an infectious joy. Her love of children and learning was unmistakable and she flavored it with a no-nonsense practical approach. Using her own materials, she helped students make great progress in their literacy skills and in their self-confidence. She was able to prompt a response from her students. She listened, set goals, played games, and dedicated her time to those who truly needed her.

By Sister Marie Rose Van Deurzen, SSND

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