

We of Nojoshing

Nojoshing – Indian word for the area where our pioneer members settled in 1849; it means "piece of land stretching into the water." The name was changed later to Saint Francis, Wisconsin.



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We celebrate the memory of our beloved Sister Cor Marie (Rosette) Lowrie July 29, 1930 – January 14, 2025

Sister Cor Marie was born in Park Falls, Wis., to Neubert and Violet (Hanley) Lowrie. She was baptized Rosette and was the oldest of three children. All the children attended St. Anthony School in Park Falls, where they met our Sisters. When she was in junior high, her family moved to Milwaukee, Wis. She attended Gesu Parish School and then Mercy High School. After high school graduation, Rosette entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi on August 28, 1947. At reception as a novice in August 1948, Rosette was given the name Sister Cor Marie. In her second year of novitiate, she worked at Cardinal Stritch University in food service.

On August 12, 1950, Sister Cor Marie made her first profession and was missioned to the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. School in Palos Park, Ill., and worked for two years in food service and child care. Her next assignment was in Spooner, Wis., where she taught catechism for three years. This included Spooner's four missions: Trego; Spring Brook; Rice Lake; and Hayward. Students had release time from the public schools to attend catechism classes. During that time she made her final profession in August of 1953.

Sister Cor Marie returned to the Kennedy School in 1955. From 1964 to 1965, she was a student at Sacred Heart School of Practical Nursing in Milwaukee and earned a certificate as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Sister Cor Marie returned to the Kennedy School until 1967, working in nursing. She moved to Hanover, Mass., and continued using her nursing skills with students with developmental disabilities at St. Coletta School until 1974.

Her next assignments in Milwaukee were at St. Ann Health Center, Marian Catholic Home, and Mary Hill Retirement Center, focusing on geriatric nursing care. In 1995, Sister Cor Marie transitioned to being a dental assistant/receptionist at St. Francis Convent until her retirement in 2004.

In 2009, Sister Cor Marie met her half-brother for the first time. Her father had left to work in the forest service in Michigan when she was seven years old. In 1947, 10 years later, the family learned that Neubert had remarried and had three children. As a result of a grudge fight he had been in at one time, a doctor said he may have suffered from amnesia and so, forgetting that he was married, married again. Late in his life when he was very sick, he told a relative that he had done a terrible thing. "I left a family in Wisconsin," he said, and asked her to ask his two living children, who lived in Washington state, to get in touch with them.

In 2009, Sister Cor Marie met her half-brother, Darrel, and his wife, Violet, when they came to Milwaukee. The meeting was emotional. They stayed for a week and then invited Sister Cor Marie to their home as a birthday present. In 2010, she went to Washington where she met her half-sister, Bonnie, and got to know all of them better during the visit. On subsequent visits they came together as family.

Living at Clare Hall, later moving to the new St. Francis Convent in 2019, provided Sister Cor Marie the opportunity to volunteer her services as needed and to enjoy activities that energized her.

Sister Cor Marie appreciated well-planned liturgies and good homilies. After Sister Patricia McAlpin moved to Clare Hall from Baltimore, she and Sister Cor Marie were walking companions and especially enjoyed the lakefront paths. In addition to walking outdoors and enjoying God's creation, they listened to classical music together.

Sister Cor Marie had a great sense of humor, and her laugh was infectious. She took inspiration from the older Sisters "who accept their diminishment gracefully." Her health went through many ups and downs.

In 2010, Sister Cor Marie celebrated her 60th Jubilee of Profession. Looking back, she reflected: "I look back on my religious life with gratitude for God's presence to me in meeting the challenges of my various ministries."

Sister Cor Marie was in hospice at St. Francis Convent and had been anointed in December. As her condition declined, on Sunday, January 12, Sisters began keeping a vigil and sitting with her. Sister Cor Marie was called by God to enter the fullness of eternal life at 3:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. Sister Regine Ehm was present when Sister Cor Marie died peacefully. January 14 is also the death anniversary of Sister Cor Marie's good friend, Sister Pat McAlpin. What a reunion for both of them!

Let us pray with Sister Cor Marie:

I love our God, because I am heard; God listens to my prayers.
God is merciful and good; our God is compassionate.
Be confident, my heart, because God has been good to me.
And so I walk in the presence of our God in the land of the living.
Praise God now and forever!

Excerpts from Psalm 116, paraphrased

†Marie Colette Roy, OSF, and Marcia Lunz, OSF