



Sisters of St. Casimir

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SISTER M. ANDREATA NAUDZIUNAS

August 23, 1922 – February 22, 2019

Sister Andreata Naudziunas (formerly Frances) was the fourth of six children born to Emilia and Andrew Naudziunas in South Boston, MA, on August 23, 1922. Sister Andreata described her parents as prayerful people who nurtured the life of faith in their children.



Sister Andreata graduated from Oliver H. Perry Elementary School and continued her education at Nazareth High School where she was taught by Sisters. When she was nearing graduation from high school in 1939, she wrote a letter to Mother Maria, who was the General Superior. In part, Sister Andreata wrote, “Ever since I have been thinking more seriously about my vocation, I have been frightened a little but still my heart seems to have found a peace and quiet, so I earnestly believe I am on the right road.” She made her first vows on August 15, 1942, celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1967, her Golden Jubilee in 1992, and had the joy of celebrating a true Diamond Jubilee in 2017 - 75 years as a Sister of St. Casimir.

Sister Andreata received a BA degree from Marywood College in Scranton, PA, in secondary education, and continued studies at De Paul University and Loyola University in Chicago, IL. Her ministry in education spanned 33 years teaching in both elementary and secondary levels. Sister Andreata taught in schools in Massachusetts, Illinois, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and New Mexico. Her ministry in secondary education began at Sacred Heart High School in Nebraska and continued at Villa Joseph Marie High School in Holland, PA. Her teaching areas focused on business skills and accounting, shorthand, typewriting, English, and social studies. During 11 of the years in elementary education, she served a dual role of teaching and accounting, as she offered her services in the business office of Holy Cross Hospital as an accounting clerk.

In 1970, Sister Andreata was elected General Treasurer of the Sisters of St. Casimir and came to live in the Motherhouse. This was the beginning of 27 years in the ministry of fiscal management for the community. As General Treasurer, Sister Andreata served on the Holy Cross Hospital Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee, as well as the Finance Committee of Loretto Hospital.

After two terms of service as the General Treasurer, Sister Andreata returned to Villa Joseph Marie High School where she continued to teach and to serve in the business office as well as at St. Joseph Home. In 1986, Sister Andreata returned to Chicago where she worked in the

business office of Holy Cross Hospital for the next 14 years. Fully engaged in the health care ministry, Sister Andreata had opportunities for education and training: improving communication skills and interview techniques and learning about pre-retirement issues and cost containment. She continued to live at Holy Cross Hospital convent until 2006, serving in various capacities both within the hospital, at the Maria High School Alumnae Office, and helping to prepare bags of food in the St. Elizabeth Food Pantry sponsored by the community.

Sister Andreata once described her religious life in this way: “Religious life has been a kaleidoscopic experience. There were neither miracles nor apparitions just the joys and sorrows of ordinary living. Working with God’s people in small cities, in large cities, in coal mining towns, in rural areas, in the north and west, and in suburbia – all added color to the kaleidoscope.”

Whatever Sister Andreata did was done to perfection, to the utmost detail. Her beautiful crocheted items continue to grace the homes of many who were fortunate to be the recipients of her work. Her treasured memory was the day Cardinal Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago, came to the Motherhouse to celebrate the Eucharist with the first group of Sisters who would be leaving the Motherhouse for Franciscan Village. The Sisters had prepared prayer shawls for the Cardinal to bless. Among them was a special one that Sister Andreata had made for the Cardinal, who was in treatment for cancer.

Sister Andreata was an avid reader. After moving to Our Lady of Victory Convent in 2014, one of the first things she did was to walk past the many bookcases in one of the rooms to see which books she might choose. In addition to her love of reading, she enjoyed the challenge of working the daily crossword puzzles from the newspaper. Sister Andreata was into walking before it became a popular thing to do. If she had a pedometer, it could have counted the number of steps she took in her walks around the Motherhouse yard, the grounds at Villa Joseph Marie, and walking the circumference of Marquette Park in Chicago. Her yearly amaryllis plant brought her great joy as she watched it grow and delighted in the blossoms as they opened, displaying their beautiful color.

Sister Andreata was surrounded by a lot of love in her last days as she continued to experience diminishment. Special gratitude to Sister Elizabeth Ann who helped in every detail of Sister Andreata’s transition, not only with the material needs, but with kindness, patience, and love, answering all of Sister Andreata’s questions and concerns, sharing what was happening, and encouraging her every step of the way.

Sister Andreata wanted the blinds in her room to be kept open at night so she could look at the sky and see the stars as she thanked God for the day. Perhaps it was those stars that led her back to God to whom she promised her life and love so many years ago .