



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Atlantic-Midwest Province

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Sister Anne Therese Weiss
March 27, 1925 – February 8, 2018

Sister Anne Therese (Leona) was born in Teeswater, Ontario. She had three sisters and six brothers, one of whom was a priest in the Congregation of the Resurrection. Leona attended Sacred Heart School in the village for Grades 1-8 and Teeswater High School for Grades 10-12. At the suggestion of her pastor, she attended Notre Dame Academy, Waterdown as a boarder for her Grade 13. The following year she planned to take a business course.

Leona loved to read the lives of the saints and she had special admiration for St. Therese. But, there was only one problem - she was a nun and at that time there was nothing more that Leona feared than entering the convent. However, after a novena to St. Anne she heard the call to Notre Dame loud and clear having promised "Dear St. Anne, if you make me contented to go to Notre Dame, I'll ask for your name when I am received."

She entered the candidature in September 1942. That year she attended Teacher's College and the next year she taught at Holy Family School, Hamilton. On the feast of St. Anne, July 26, 1945 she received the name, Novice Anne Therese. She was grateful for her religious name, since both saints had helped her enter SSND.

Following her profession of vows in 1945, she taught elementary school in Mildmay and Kitchener. From 1957 – 1969 Sister Anne Therese taught secondary classes at St. Mary's High, Kitchener, and, in Cambridge, at St. Michael and St Joseph Schools and St. Benedict Junior High.

In 1969 she was appointed director of Initial Formation. She held this position until 1977. Prayer of contemplation and the Ignatian method of prayer were two of the instruments of prayer which she shared with the postulants and novices.

She, then, moved to the convent in Formosa where she continued directing retreats and she wrote the manuscript, *School Sisters of Notre Dame: Apostolic but Contemplative*.

From 1979 to 1993 Sister Anne Therese was secretary for the Provincial Council of the Canadian Province. She fulfilled this ministry in a trustworthy and discreet manner and with proficiency. Her attention to detail is noted in the archive files during those years.

A notable spiritual experience was her three month sabbatical at the Trappistine Monastery in Dubuque, Iowa in 1993. She was pleased that the members of the community shared their whole way of life with her. She wrote that they radiated joy in their single minded thrust toward God and the things of God.

In 1993 she moved to Toronto. The community members volunteered at St. John the Compassionate, assisting in the soup kitchen. They, also, taught English as a Second Language to women. Sister Anne Therese continued her ministry in catechetical correspondence while she lived at St. Anne's, Kitchener and when she retired to Notre Dame Convent, Waterdown.

Sister Anne Therese completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Toronto in 1961. She attended several courses offered at the Toronto School of Theology and participated in the annual Canadian Religious Conference Formation Workshops.

She was the elected delegate for the Canadian Province for the 14th General Chapter in 1972 and for the 15th General Chapter in 1974.

Sister Anne Therese is remembered and loved for her quiet, gentle presence. Her deep faith and personal relationship with God were manifest within community and in her years of ministry. She listened with compassion.

For her Ritual of Remembrance, Sister Anne Therese chose a passage from *The Divine Milieu* by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin; "We must overcome death by finding God.....Now the great victory of the Creator and Redeemer in the Christian vision, is to have transformed what is in itself a universal power of diminishment and extinction into an essentially life-giving factor."

In this Service she included this closing prayer by Teilhard de Chardin, "O Energy of my Lord, irresistible and living force, since of us two, You are infinitely stronger. It is for You to consume me in the union that shall fuse us together. Give me, then, something even more precious than the grace which all the faithful beg from You. It is not enough that I die in communion. Teach me communion by dying."

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Anne Therese was celebrated on February 12 at Notre Dame Convent, Waterdown. The celebrant of the Mass was the Very Reverend Wayne Lobsinger, Episcopal Vicar for Consecrated Life and concelebrant was Reverend Pablito Laboto, chaplain, who was homilist. Internment at Notre Dame Convent cemetery.

S. Joan Helm