

Sister Louise Griebel, CSA

Sister Louise (Roberta) Griebel, CSA, 84, died on Friday, November 26, 2010, in St. Francis Home where she resided.



On July 31, 1926, Roberta was the second of five daughters born to Raymond and Helen Schoch Griebel in Altoona, Pennsylvania. This Catholic family was a family of faith and music. Led by their father, the girls all learned to play the piano and loved to sing. Many a night found the Griebels and sometimes their extended family gathered around the piano to celebrate with song. The family's lives were to become intertwined with the lives of the Sisters of St. Agnes as Roberta and her next youngest sister Bernadette would, within two years of each other, join the Fond du Lac community to which their aunt, Sister Agreda, had felt called. Evidently Roberta must have confided in her aunt about her interest in entering the convent. One of her treasured possessions is a well-worn Christmas card and letter sent in 1940 from Sister Agreda, advising her to pray about and choose her vocation wisely. Sister Agreda died in 1941, the year before Roberta entered.

1942 found the sixteen-year-old Roberta in Fond du Lac where she finished high school and attended Marian College while she began her training as a Sister of St. Agnes. In 1945 Roberta professed first vows as Sister Louise and began her career of more than forty years as teacher, organist, choir director, and later principal. With a B.S. in Education from Marian College and an M.S. in Education from St. Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Sister taught and administered schools in the states of Wisconsin, New York, Kansas, and Indiana. Sister completed the last seven of her education years as principal in Decatur, Indiana. Written tributes to her gifts are given by the pastor, teachers, janitor, secretary, and specialist teachers. Words they use sum up the qualities they admired and found helpful: enthusiasm, support, spirit, consideration, efficiency, caring, friendliness, inspiration, openness, understanding, woman of God. When she left Decatur, the mayor issued a declaration proclaiming "Sister Louise Days" in recognition of "the vital role she has played in the mission of Catholic education at St. Joseph School in our community."

The final chapter of Sister Louise's active life of ministry would bring new challenges for which Sister prepared by earning a Gerontology Certificate from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in Terre Haute, Indiana, and becoming a Certified Assisted Housing Manager for Marian House Manor (the remodeled Altoona convent), a HUD housing project for the elderly. To this project Sister Louise brought all her skills as an administrator and her love of people and parties to provide a friendly atmosphere for the elderly who would be residents of Marian House Manor.

Sister Louise returned to Fond du Lac to live in Nazareth Court and Center in 2006 to be with her ailing younger sister, Sister Raymond, who had for years been a missionary in Nicaragua and who died in 2008. Always a supporter of her sister's missionary work, Sister Louise continued to support the missions with the nickels that she won and that others gave her from

their winnings at bingo. She loved receiving packages of cookies, candy and special treats from her family and sharing those with staff and residents of the retirement and nursing homes. Sister Louise herself moved to St. Francis Home as her health became frailer. Although she found it difficult to be dependent and in pain, she prayed for patience and spoke about her gratitude for those who cared for her. Sister Louise slipped peacefully and pain-free into the arms of her loving God last Friday night.

Sister Louise is survived by two sisters: Wilhelmina McCulloch of Altoona, PA, and Louise (Harry) Lund of San Antonio, Texas; nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; and the Sisters of St. Agnes with whom she lived, prayed, and ministered.

Preceding her in death are her parents, Raymond and Helen Schoch Griebel, and two sisters: Mary Agnes Gillam and Sister Raymond Griebel, CSA.

Visitation: Visitation for Sister Louise will be held on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac. A prayer service will be held at 11:00 a.m.

Services: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in the St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac. Father Ken Smits, OFM Cap., will preside. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to the Sisters of St. Agnes Development Office, 320 County Road K, Fond du Lac, WI 54935.