

# MARIAN RESIDENCE

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Laureen Baumeister was born to Otto and Anna (Barrett) on June 25, 1918 at Stuart, Nebraska. After graduating from St. Mary's Academy, O'Neill, Nebraska, she entered the Sisters of St. Francis at Stella Niagara, New York, in August, 1936. Sister Carmen made vows in August 1938, then attended Stella Niagara Normal School. After finishing her studies there she began her career as a teacher in Sacred heart Province.

She showed talent for administration early in life. During her life she served as Superior at St. Agnes Academy, Alliance, Nebraska, and Administrator at St. Joseph's hospital, Minot, North Dakota; St. Joseph's Hospital, Alliance, Nebraska, and St. Anthony's Hospital, O'Neill, Nebraska. For several years she served in various positions at Marycrest, Denver, Colorado. It was during her time in Denver that she initiated the group known as "Hands of Francis" which is still active today.

Over the years she earned a B.A. from St. Ambrose and Marycrest, Davenport, Iowa, and an M.B.A. from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

Ill health forced her to retire in 1991. She suffered her first stroke in 1976 but made a remarkable recovery. However, during the next years she had several T.I.A.'s which sapped much of her former vitality. After coming to Marian Residence her health failed more; in August, 1998, she was confined to a wheel chair and her condition was such that we feared she would not see 1999. On January 8 she suffered another stroke and was semi-comatose for the next thirteen days. During this time there was one or more Sisters at her bedside, and the priests stopped to bless her frequently. Devoted members of the nursing staff worked overtime so that she would never be unattended during the night. She died peacefully on January 20. Most of the Sisters from here in Alliance were with her when she died.

Sister Carmen was the last of her immediate family. Two sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews survive her. The Mass of the Resurrection was offered at 10:00 a.m. January 24 in Holy Rosary Church, Alliance, Nebraska.

Six members of Sister Carmen's family were able to come from eastern Nebraska, and thirteen of our Sisters from Denver, O'Neill, and St. Francis, SD. Our two priests were joined by one who had been a former pastor and another who was an alumnus of St. Agnes Academy. Parishioners joined the family members, Sisters, and Associates for the Mass. Sister Carmen is the 103rd Sister to rest in our Calvary cemetery.

Peace and All Good,

Sisters at Marian Residence