

Sister Bernard Meyer
09/14/1923- 10/28/2010

Sister Bernard Meyer was born September 14, 1923 on a Homestead in rural South Dakota. Her parents were Bernard "Barney" and Agnes Meyer. The homestead is located near the small village of Paxton. The family was blessed with two more daughters Anna Mae (Brown) and Agnes (Muller). The small village of Paxton had a lone Catholic Church and a cemetery.

In Sister Bernard's younger days the village supported gas stations, a creamery, along with various stores and a Catholic Church with a priest residence. The Church was St John's. The parish was very active. During this time many friends left the area because of the dust storms and grasshopper problem.

When Sister Bernard was ready for high school her parents sent her to the boarding school at St Mary's Academy in O'Neill Nebraska. It was during this time that Sister Bernard realized she had a religious vocation.

On September 8, 1941 Sister Bernard and two other graduates left to enter the novitiate of St Francis of Penance and the Christian Charity in Denver Colorado. After a year of postulancy, Etta Marie received the name of Sister Mary Bernard. At the end of the novitiate years she pronounced "First Vows".

Sister Bernard's first ministry assignment was to teach at the Holy Rosary Mission at Pine Ridge South Dakota until 1953. Sister Bernard ministered as a teacher and infirmarian at both St Francis Mission and Holy Rosary Missions in South Dakota and in Denver Colorado. Sister Bernard received her BA degree at Regis University in Denver Colorado and a MS in Education at St Mary's College at Xavier in Kansas. Sister Bernard went on to further her education and received her Master degree in Pastoral Ministry from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois. Sister Bernard returned to the Holy Rosary Parish in Alliance Nebraska and gave new life to the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) program. Sister Bernard related well to Seminarians and Young Associate Pastors.

In 1990 her eye sight worsened. In 2000 she was essentially blind. She attended the School for the Blind from 2001-2002 in Lincoln, Nebraska. As she starting getting older she prayed for sight and she said Jesus said "wait". As her health started to decline she prayed for death and Jesus once again told her she "would have to wait". In mid October we knew she did not have long to wait. Once again Jesus said she would "have to wait awhile longer". For several days she rested peacefully. On October 28, 2010 at 9:30pm Jesus took Sister Bernard home.

The Wake was at Marian Residence and was quite large. The stories were truly wonderful. Eight priests and Father Jim Hiethoff concelebrated Mass of Resurrection on Tuesday November 2, 2010 at Holy Rosary Church in Alliance, Nebraska. She now waits in Calvary Cemetery with other Sisters for the final judgment.

We all miss her

Sisters of St. Francis