

Sister M. Beatrice Siratavic, OSF

August 16, 1919 - August 5, 2016

Secular Name: Natalie
Entrance: September 9, 1936
Birth: August 16, 1919
Parents: Kazimir and Julia
Siblings: Theresa, Joseph, Helen
Elementary School: St. George School
High School: Catholic Girls High School
Higher Education: Duquesne Univ., B.S.Ed.

Ministry:

Sr. M. Beatrice began her ministry with the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God as a school teacher. In her early years of service, she taught grades 3- 6 at Sts. Peter and Paul (Elizabeth, NJ) and St. Anthony (Detroit, MI). From 1942-53, she taught Grades 7-8 at St. Francis Academy on the Motherhouse property.

In 1953 until 1992 she served in various roles and ministries with our sisters in Brazil. It was her ministry in Brazil that she cherished as the “most challenging and fruitful years” of her life. Prior to arriving in Brazil, Sister Beatrice had no knowledge of the Portuguese language. Always open to whatever God had in store for her, she learned the language and remained in Brazil for forty years.

Most notably, from 1962 to 1972 she served as the Regional Superior - the overall leader- of our sisters working in Brazil. She was also a hospital aide in Pedro Leopaldo as well as in the mission’s finance office. Here, Sister Beatrice found the “warm, simple, friendly, God-fearing, prayerful people of the village that ignited a deeper appreciation for the things of God.”

From 1993 to 2012 she served as the Assistant Archivist for the community’s Archives Department at the Motherhouse. In 2012 she became involved in prayer ministry and assisted wherever her skills could be used. She was often the friendly face in the Motherhouse gift shop.

Sister Beatrice was a woman of wisdom and faithfulness. She loved candy and ice cream, had a wonderful sense of humor, with her cheerful smile and the twinkle in her eyes, Sister Beatrice had an all embracing spirit.

“Sing joyfully to the Lord; serve the Lord with gladness.”

