



Sister Wanda Piotrowski

March 22, 1908 - January 10, 2008

Sister Wanda Piotrowski, 99, a founder of the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, and best known for her 50 years of service at St. Alexius Medical Center, entered eternal life January 10, 2008, at a Bismarck care center. Mass of Christian burial will be held at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, January 15, in the Chapel of Annunciation Monastery. Visitation starts at 4:30 PM on Saturday, January 12, and continues at the monastery until the time of the funeral. A wake is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Monday, January 14, in the monastery chapel. Sister Wanda was born on March 22, 1908, to Joseph and Anna Senkowski Piotrowski. She was the 10th of 12 children and grew up in Gilman, MN. As a young girl, Sister Wanda thought sisters had wonderful lives and wanted that for herself. An outgoing, fun-loving person, Sister Wanda entered St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, in 1925 and made monastic profession on July 11, 1927. In 1930 she was sent to St. Alexius to help temporarily in the Radiology Department and ended up spending the rest of her life in Bismarck. She often joked, "I think God writes in both straight and crooked lines, and I am an example of the crooked lines." Her life's path led from the Minnesota monastery, to North Dakota, to being a charter member of Annunciation Monastery. At St. Alexius she became a registered radiologic technologist and enjoyed the job so much she stayed in the Radiology Department for 37 years directing the department and opening a school of radiologic technology. She also was instrumental in starting the North Dakota Society of Radiologic Technologists. In 1967 Sister Wanda

became assistant to the prioress at Annunciation Monastery and served in that role for six years followed by seven years as a parish visitor at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck. Then it was back to St. Alexius where she served in the pastoral care department, primarily in the surgery waiting room. Sister Wanda could lift the spirits of others with her smile and delightful personality. She visited with those waiting while their friends and family were in surgery. She comforted, laughed, sometimes cried and often prayed with them. One man in the waiting room wrote: "When she enters the room there's warmth around her and as she calmly goes from person to person she seems to glow. As she comes around to you, her warmth seems to rub off and her gentle way lets you know that she has connections with our Maker." Sister Wanda retired from St. Alexius in 1994 with a heart full of gratitude for all the opportunities she had to help others. "I could make a difference, but the people I've met through the years made a difference in my life too," she said. Sister Wanda will be remembered for the mischievous sparkle in her eyes, her sense of humor and gift of visiting. On her 75th anniversary as a sister, she said, "I've loved the work and people in my life. I've loved my life as a Benedictine sister." She is survived by a large extended family, friends and the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery. Memorials may be made to Annunciation Monastery.

Tribute Wall

DN

“ For all my scheduled weekends off that I had to work--because Sr.Wanda found my barium enema room not quite tidy enough to pass inspection--because Sr. Wanda found out that I cut Friday afternoon Ethics class with Sr. Elizabeth--because Sr.Wanda found out I really wasn't sick the day after Monday night study class just hung over as I recall. For all the times Sr.Wanda helped me through the anatomy, physiology, EKG, positioning classes and even for reminding me that I ought not to call Sr. Rene "Rotten Renee". And especially to Sr. Wanda for accepting an obnoxious seventeen year old to start her Radiologic Technologist Program. I just know those "X-Ray eyes" of hers will certainly be looking down on me to make sure I stay out of trouble.

Del Novak - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ I recall the first time I had the pleasure of interviewing Sister Wanda when I worked in communications at St. Alexius. She was warm, witty and wonderful! She was so humble about her many accomplishments and gushed whenever she spoke about her love of children. Her amusing anecdotes about the St. Alexius Christmas physician dinners, the plays the sisters put on in Boniface Hall, and her life as a young sister kept me glued to my chair. When I interviewed her again at Annunciation Monastery, she again kept me riveted with her stories. She taught me about the three stages of life: 1 young, 2 old, and 3 "You look so good!" She said she was in the latter stage. She also pondered out loud that she has been on the "launching pad" for a very long time and she wondered if God had forgotten she was down here. I'm so happy for her that she will celebrate her 100th birthday in Heaven! God bless you, Sister Wanda.Jill Ackerman

Jill Ackerman - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“Who is Sister Wanda? Oh...haven't I told you about Sister Wanda? I was riding my Harley in May of 2002. I went to the south end of U Mary to see the view. As I drove into the parking lot, a little old lady was motoring across the lot in her Amigo 3 wheel cart. I drove around her I gave her a wide berth, and left the lot for the upper lot. As I came back down we met at the corner. I stopped and said, "You are driving your cycle too." She said, "Ya, but yours is much faster. Mine won't even climb the hill." We talked a bit. She had been a nurse at St. A's in Radiology. She has been at Annunciation Monastery since before U Mary was created, before Mary College. She was one of the ones who started Mary! She was a living history. As a former staff member of St' A's, she knew Dick Tschider, then St A's administrator. I told her I knew Dick and was on the Lay Advisory Board of St. A's. She said, "I rode a motor cycle when I was a girl." A cousin had one and she rode in the side car. It was in 1920! She invited me to come back for the "Jubilee." Then she said, "Two of the nuns there are celebrating 50 years as a nun. Two more are celebrating 60 years. And can you guess how many I am celebrating?" She said she is celebrating 75 YEARS! Sr. Wanda was then 94 years old. She was 19 when she took her vows. I went to the Jubilee in my Biker leathers. There was a nice reception after the big service and ceremony. After all of the others greeted her I approached her and said, "Do you remember me, I was here on my motorcycle two weeks ago." Her eyes lighted up and she said, "Oh yes!" She then introduced me to her nephew who was standing there too. She said, "He is a member of the Lay Advisory Board." We both enjoyed the view of the valley below. Sister Wanda was riding her "bike" and I was on my Harley. I will miss my Biker Buddy. I posted our pictures at: www.hedahls.com/RNH/srwanda.jpg and www.hedahls.com/RNH/srwanda2.jpg

Dick Hedahl - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM