



Sister Mildred Nikolas, OSB

Sister Mildred (Alice) Nikolas, 83, of Mother of God Monastery in Watertown, SD died Saturday, April 14, 2012 at the monastery. A Liturgical Wake will be held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 17 at Mother of God Monastery. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday, April 18, in the monastery chapel with Father Denis Meier officiating. Burial will be in the monastery cemetery.

Alice Nikolas was born in Aberdeen, SD on February 5, 1929 to Cecilia (Sahli) and Leo Nikolas. Being the second oldest in a family of 13 (nine boys and four girls) she had many responsibilities.

Alice attended St. Mary's School in Aberdeen, which was staffed by the Benedictines. As a sixth grader she felt attracted to religious life and searched out different orders, feeling drawn to the Benedictines and Maryknoll. Trying to "whittle herself out of the fact that religious life was for her" she began making novenas to the Sorrowful Mother. Still convinced that she had a vocation, she entered Sacred Heart Convent in Yankton at the age of 14 on August 20, 1943. In 1946, Alice entered the novitiate, and received the name of Sister Mildred.

After her monastic profession in 1947, Sister Mildred began a 25-year teaching ministry throughout the Diocese of Sioux Falls. In 1961 she became a founding member of Mother of God Monastery, established in Pierre. Her teaching career ended abruptly when she was elected third Prioress of the new community. During her term of office, the monastery relocated to Watertown.

Sister Mildred enjoyed all the ministries to which she was assigned during her active life. She especially loved working with families in the parish setting. Her last ministry spanned a period of 18 years in the parishes of Montrose and Humbolt.

Sister Mildred loved the Liturgy and the praying of the Divine Office. To her, these were very important facets in living the Rule of St. Benedict. The Holy Rule, for her, was a guide for Christian living, but also a challenge at times. Sister Mildred was known and loved for her compassion and her love for everyone.

Sister Mildred is survived by six brothers, Henry (Sharon), Robert (Lila), Philip (Evelyn), Timothy (Eileen) and David (Kay) Nikolas of Aberdeen; Thomas (Jane) of Maplewood, MN and three sisters, Pauline (Jerry) Winjum of Lakewood, CO, Mary Ann Nikolas of Aberdeen, and Madonna (Donn) Kuhfeld of Mina, SD, and her sisters of Mother of God Monastery. She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers Edward, LeRoy and William.