

Sister Mary Michaeline Straus SSND - 80 Year Jubilee!



Sister Mary Michaeline Straus was from a family of ten children and born in Bamberg, Ontario on August 1, 1921. She entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame at Notre Dame Convent in Waterdown, Ontario, Canada in 1935 and professed first vows in 1940.

For 23 years, Sister Michaeline worked in the motherhouse laundry and attended to the boarders in the Notre Dame Academy. Her caring motherly presence was appreciated by the borders and especially those who were away from home for the first time. Many recalled that as she supervised in the evenings, Sister Michaeline would be praying her rosary.

In 1963, Sister Michaeline took on a new challenge - cooking for the community at St. Joseph's Convent, Kitchener. Each evening she would study recipes and write out the menu for the next day. Her meals were tasty and attractively presented. Later she was homemaker in convents in Newmarket, St. Agatha, Waterdown and Waterloo.

For two years, Sister Michaeline cared for her aged mother in St. Agatha. Then, in 1990, she was assigned to the motherhouse in Waterdown where she used her skills in needlework to assist in the Occupational Therapy program for the retired sisters.

From 1995 - 1997, Sister moved to Wolsley, Saskatchewan as companion to her sister, Sister Mildred, SSND, who served as administrator for the parish in Indian Head. Upon her return to Ontario, Sister Michaeline moved to the motherhouse in Waterdown. Here she continued to knit lovely sets of baby sweaters and bonnets for local bazaars.

Sister Michaeline was always ready for any challenge and with a sparkle in her eyes cheerfully assisted those in need.

Through her patience, her accepting help gratefully, quiet and humble presence, Sister Michaeline continues to bring peace and love to our world in her ministry of prayer and presence. For Sister Michaeline, the following call from *You Are Sent* is a living model:

Like Mother Theresa, we are ready to serve wherever we are called. We are conscious that we share in Christ's mission not only through our active ministry, but through our prayer and suffering, through our whole life and our death. (YAS GD 32).