

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province



Genealogy Request

Family Name Grant, Helen Marie

Sister Name (if applicable) Sister Paul Damian

Birth Date/Place 11-17-1798⁸ Charlottetown, P.E.I., Canada

Reception into Novitiate 8-15-1929

First Vows 8-15-1931 Final Vows 8-15-1934

Date/Place of Death 1-1-1971 St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul, Mn.

Date/Place of Interment 1-4-1971 Resurrection, St. Paul, Mn.

Education B.S. - R.N.

Ministry Registered Nurse

Mother's Maiden Name Anastasia McNally

Birth Date/Place ? Charlottetown, P.E.I., Canada

Father's Name John Henry Grant

Birth Date/Place ? Bemidji, Mn.

Other Notes

Sister Paul Damian Grant (baptized Helen Marie) was born on November 17, 1898 in Charlottown, Prince Edward Island and died at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota on January 1, 1971 in the forty-first year of her religious life.

Before entering the religious life in 1929, Sister had a good educational and profession preparation. She graduated from Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing in Seattle in 1924. Soon after the completion of the course she attended the University of Washington and became a public health nurse. Sister often told of her work and experiences in home nursing care as she traveled to homes in Montana and Wyoming in her Model T Ford. She loved the mountains and particularly the Canadian Rockies. All of her life she was proud to have been a Canadian. In later years she had the Canadian flag next to the American flag on her desk.

After making her first vows on August 1, 1931 Sister became the Supervisor of the Maternity Department at St. Mary's Hospital in Minneapolis and later added teaching of maternity to students in nursing, a position she carried until 1939 when she became the Superior of the Sisters and the Coordinator of the Social Work at the Catholic Infant Home in St. Paul, a home for unwed mothers. In those years both mother and baby remained in the Home for long periods of time both before and after the delivery of the baby. Many times there were as many as forty women living in the home in very crowded conditions. Sister remained in this work for five years. Then, in 1944, Sister was assigned for a three year period as Administrator of St. John's Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota. She was also the Superior of the Sisters of St. John's. This was the period following the flood in Fargo and Sister had the responsibility of renovating and cleaning the first two floors of the hospital.

Then, for the next fifteen years, from 1947 to 1962, Sister was the Supervisor and Instructor of Maternity Nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital. During those years she assisted with the delivery of thousands of newborn babies. Sister was a very capable, efficient and dependable manager of her department.

Sister's last assignment was at St. Joseph's Hospital where she could amalgamate and use all of her knowledge and experience, particularly her public health principles. At first she worked through the social service department and was given the job of Referral of Patients. She worked hard and long, giving care to patients whose hospital needs were no longer acute, helping them to find a nursing home, or merely helping them to adjust to their own homes. Some other work Sister did was to find or arrange for funds for medical care for the needy who had to return to the outpatient department and giving compassion to unwed prospective mothers and finding assistance for them. The greater amount of her time during these years was spent visiting the aged and needy after discharge from the hospital. Each Wednesday and Friday Sister was able to get a volunteer to drive her from home to home to take care of their needs and have a friendly visit. The people awaited her visit and really loved her. Sister never forgot those people in the nursing homes after she assisted them to be admitted. All during these later years Sister was suffering from a serious cardiac condition which she accepted with patience. Never did she let it prevent her from carrying on her job other than to take some minor precautions. One of her greatest blessings came in 1964 when a man she had befriended set up a charitable foundation which was to be used specifically in her work. He gave \$500 each February until her death. With that money she was able to provide help to many people in need and with it she gave comfort, pleasure and happiness to many a person.

The last year of her life was spent working at the Information Desk at St. Joseph's. This again gave her new opportunities to care for people in need. Many of these people whom she befriended came to her wake where they told of the good things she did for them.

Sister's last illness was of short duration following a severe cerebral vascular accident, and died three days later on New Year's Day, 1971.