

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province



Genealogy Request

Family Name McLean, Katherine

Sister Name (if applicable) Sister Gordia

Birth Date/Place 12-26-1883 Louis, P.E.I., Canada

Reception into Novitiate 2-19-1901

First Vows 2-19-1903 Final Vows 8-15-1910

Date/Place of Death 6-21-1960 Bethany Convent, St. Paul, Mn.

Date/Place of Interment 6-24-1960 Resurrection, St. Paul, Mn.

Education ?

Ministry Elementary teacher

Mother's Maiden Name Mary McDonald

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

Father's Name Donald McLean

Birth Date/Place ? Glasgow, Scotland

Other Notes

SISTER GORDIA MacLEAN

Sister Gordia MacLean died at Bethany Convent, St. Paul, Minnesota on June 21, 1960, in the seventy-seventh year of her age and the fifty-eighth of her religious life.

Sister Gordia was born at Souris, Prince Edward Island, Canada. Her parents were devout Catholics and thought it an honor to have a religious in the family; hence, she met with no opposition when she announced her intention of leaving for far-off Minnesota at the early age of seventeen.

Sister's first teaching assignment was at St. John's Academy, Jamestown, North Dakota, where she taught fourteen years. Sister cherished many happy memories of her years in Dakota and is still kindly remembered by her Jamestown pupils. Sister also taught in several of our city schools -- St. Vincent's, St. Luke's, St. Mark's and St. Columba's in St. Paul, and Ascension, St. Charles, St. Lawrence and Christ the King in Minneapolis.

Two mastoid operations early in Sister's religious life left her with a chronic deafness which made teaching extremely difficult. However, Sister accepted this cross in a spirit of faith as God's will and did wonderful work in the classroom in spite of this handicap.

In 1954 Sister retired from the classroom but not from active duty. She was assigned to Bethany where she helped with the many and varied household duties. Whether it was taking someone's place in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, a companion to a doctor's office or spending the night with the dying, Sister was always willing and ready to help. One of her former pupils, as he viewed her remains, remarked, "Sister Gordia was a kind and patient teacher, a strict disciplinarian, but very just."

Sister ^{had diabetes} (was a diabetic) and had gone into the hospital for a routine check-up. During this time the doctors discovered a malignant tumor in the lung and suggested surgery. Sister submitted and the operation was successful, but she

suffered a stroke two days later. She lingered about three weeks in this paralyzed, semi-conscious condition. Although Sister couldn't speak, grateful looks toward the nurses showed her appreciation of what was being done for her. Claspng her rosary

in her good hand and looking from one to the other of the Sisters who recited the rosary at her bedside was a beautiful climax to her life-long devotion to our Blessed Mother.

Sister Gordia possessed a dignity that was sometimes mistaken for coldness. Actually, Sister was most gracious. Demanding little from those whom she came in contact but giving freely of herself, we can truly say of Sister. "She was replete with charity toward all."

May she rest in peace.

A Saint!