

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province



Genealogy Request

Family Name Hamill, Mary Irene
Sister Name (if applicable) Sister Dorinda
Birth Date/Place 7-24-1902 Middleton, P.E.I., Canada
Reception into Novitiate 7-2-1917
First Vows 3-19-1920 Final Vows 8-15-1923
Date/Place of Death 9-17-1987 Bethany Convent, St. Paul, Mn.
Date/Place of Interment 9-21-1987 Resurrection, St. Paul, Mn.
Education B.A.

Ministry Elementary teacher

Mother's Maiden Name Mary Dorinda Duffey
Birth Date/Place ? Kenkora, P.E.I., Canada
Father's Name Thomas Hamill
Birth Date/Place ? Kenkora, P.E.I., Canada

Other Notes

St. Joseph Administration Center
1884 Randolph Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

SISTER DORINDA HAMILL, CSJ -- 1902 - 1987

Died Thursday, September 17, 1987, at 11:45 p.m., Bethany Convent, St. Paul, MN

Born at Prince Edward Island, Canada, July 24, 1902

Joined the Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Paul, July 2, 1917

Made first vows on March 19, 1920; made final vows on August 15, 1923.

"To me, life means Christ; and dying is so much gain." Philemon 1.20

As the story goes, young Mary Irene Hamill of Prince Edward Island was so intent on joining the Sisters of St. Joseph that she refused to let the matter sit for a year as her parents had strongly advised. She received her father's consent one day, after following him into a field on the family's farm near Kinkora. Her mother's blessing followed. Soon after, Mary Irene was on the train, headed for the St. Paul novitiate.

Hard as the separation was for both Mary Irene and her family, she persevered; and, in 1918, when she was only fifteen years old, she received the habit of the Sisters of St. Joseph and her religious name, Dorinda, after her mother. Sister Dorinda finished her high school education at St. Joseph's Academy and in 1919 began a 57 year teaching career at St. Michael's School in Stillwater.

Teaching came easily to Sister Dorinda; she knew her lessons and, equally as important, she knew how to encourage the mastery of those lessons. Her strong voice and swift manner encouraged attention, and few students entertained drifting thoughts in Sister Dorinda's classroom. A tribute to her finesse as a teacher are the many letters and visits she received from former students throughout her days at Bethany.

It was easy to like Sister Dorinda. She was vivacious, light hearted, friendly and outgoing. She had a wonderful smile and her everyday conversation sparkled with humor. Talking with her, a person felt special as words of endearment came quickly: sweet one, beautiful one and country cousin.

Sister Dorinda maintained an involvement and interest in life...reading the daily paper, watching MacNeil/Lehrer, visiting her sisters in Boston, knitting, crocheting, decoupage, swimming...moving from one activity to another, so light on her feet, so young at heart. Her sense of humor helped her cope with the physical pain she experienced throughout much of her life. With her death, somewhat unexpected, we can only feel her spirit soar.

--Sister Mary Kraft

SERVICES:

Wake at Bethany Convent, Monday, September 21, 2:00-7:00 p.m.

Mass of the Resurrection, Monday, September 21, 7:00 p.m.

Interment in Resurrection Cemetery, St. Paul, MN

Sister is survived by four sisters: Thelma Walsh, Betty Pearson, Anne Hamill, and Ethel Fennell; all of Massachusetts.