



Sister Clara Dischler

Born to earthly life: February 20, 1922
Religious profession: August 4, 1939
Entered eternal life: February 24, 2013

“The whole created world is waiting
in eager expectation for the children
of God to be revealed.”

– Romans 8:19

FROM AN EARLY AGE, LITTLE MARTHA DISCHLER LOVED SCIENCE and enjoyed exploring all the creatures and aspects of nature around her family’s farm near Plain, WI. Also from an early age, she knew she wanted to be a sister. Racine Dominicans taught her at St. Luke School in Plain, and it seemed only natural to join their community when she finished eighth grade.

Not surprising, then, is that Martha grew up to become Sister Clara, a highly respected teacher of science for over 50 years. With a background in geography, botany, chemistry, and zoology, she shared her love for science and nature with children around Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Alaska. She taught primary grades through high school levels, and also served as principal. “She was a wonderful teacher,” said S. Esther Szambelan, S. Clara’s classmate and good friend. “Many of her students won prizes at state science competitions.”

Her 10 years at Holy Name School in Ketchikan, Alaska, were especially dear to S. Clara. “I loved my time in Ketchikan, especially working with the children,” she said. “They were so easy. Each one of them had so much good inside. Sometimes you had to look a little harder to find it, but it was always there.”

“When she served in Alaska, she found the sunsets breathtaking, as well as the icebergs, the bears, and the eagles,” noted S. Agnes Ballweg, who lived and served with her in Ketchikan. “She took great joy in walking around the lake and naming every plant, bird, insect and tree along the way. Each week I got a science lesson on our walks.”

Even at Lakeshore Manor, nature was “alive in her room, with symbols of the cardinal in her snow globe, the Alaskan Husky (whom she named Alaska), her colorful sweatshirts with birds, flowers, or animals, and now for Spring, her illuminated bouquet of tulips,” S. Rosalie Lauer said. “Best of all, making her eyes sparkle, were the live plants and flowers which visitors would so lovingly bring, along with greeting cards.”

Just a week before her funeral, S. Clara celebrated her 91st birthday on February 20. “She had reason to rejoice with her gifts of educating students, her time spent as manager of the Siena Center Card Shop, and most recently filling her days with prayer and love,” S. Rosalie reflected.

And now, after 91 years filled with the richness of life and nature, this child and woman who so deeply appreciated the wonders and mystery of “the whole created world,” has gone Home to find its fullness and beauty revealed.