



Sister Gabrielle Hubert, OP

Born to earthly life: March 7, 1922
Religious profession: August 4, 1942
Entered eternal life: October 21, 2013

“Gabes was a powerful influence for all of us. She was the ultimate teacher, mentor, and friend.”

Rosemary Nikodemus Curtin
Dominican College student

ROSEMARY'S SENTIMENT HAS ECHOED THROUGHOUT CYBERSPACE as former students of Sister Gabrielle Hubert learn of their beloved teacher's death and share their own memories on Facebook and in emails. They respected her as a demanding teacher who made history come alive, and they appreciated her ability to make them think and stretch them far beyond their own expectations.

Born Monica Agnes to Herman and Martha Hubert on March 7, 1922, she was one of 13 children and learned early how to manage a rowdy group of kids – “often with a broom!” noted Larry, one of her many younger brothers. The family lived on a farm near Tomah, WI, and when Monica was old enough to attend school, her mother sent her to live in town with a grandmother so she could attend the Catholic school. On her very first day she decided she was going to be a sister like her kindly first grade teacher, S. Therese de Lisieux. “I never did talk myself out of it!” S. Gabrielle reflected some 70 years later.

She joined the Racine Dominicans at age 17 and within a few years launched a 50-year teaching career that influenced thousands of young lives from elementary school through college. She felt her eight years as a history professor at Racine's Dominican College were “some of the best years of my life and resulted in wonderful friendships.” She then went to work with and teach the African American men of Morehouse College in Atlanta, discovering a whole new world. “I lived in a black men's dormitory and this is when I got a strong sense of what life was like in the black community.” She felt her five years at Morehouse were “wonderful, exciting.”

Known simply as “Gabes” to sisters and friends, S. Gabrielle earned love and respect wherever she went. She was the consummate teacher whether in a seventh-grade classroom, college lecture hall, prison unit, or adult learning center. She loved teaching, loved the people she taught, and put her heart and soul into helping all her students better themselves and their lives.

In 1999, when Gabes left Tennessee after 29 years ministering in the South, Dr. Lewis Moore, her boss for three years at Columbia State Community College, wrote a tribute in the local newspaper:

“... Thousands of Columbia State alumni have been touched by [Gabes'] hardheaded concern for them. She helped them by making them see that with work and perseverance, they could be better. I and others of the Columbia State family are better persons as a result of Gabes' influence. ...We miss her and thank God that He brought her our way.”

A sentiment felt poignantly right now by the Racine Dominicans and many others across this country whose lives were touched by Sister Gabrielle Hubert.