



Sister Juliana Dischler, OP

Born to earthly life: January 19, 1926
Religious profession: August 4, 1946
Entered eternal life: July 25, 2019

*“Those who teach others justice will
shine as the stars for all eternity.”*

Daniel 12:3

MARIE MAGDALEN WAS THE SIXTH of John and Mary Dischler’s nine children. The family lived on a farm near Plain, Wisconsin, and Marie enjoyed working outside with her brothers. They liked to tease her, but she could hold her own! John and Mary taught all their children the importance of daily prayer and reaching out to people, values Marie, later Sister Juliana, modeled throughout her 93 years.

She was drawn to the Racine Dominicans by the excellent teaching, along with the reverence, respect and friendly concern she received from her grade school teachers at St. Luke’s in Plain. She learned and lived those lessons well, as former students and colleagues alike were deeply influenced by her genuine love and concern for each person she encountered.

“She was a wonderful, caring lady,” said Mary Kay, the librarian at St. Bernard’s, Appleton, a parish S. Juliana served for 11 years. “Her way of talking to people and caring about them showed people were as important to her as God was.”

Jerome, a former middle school student, wrote to the community in 2016 to share the impact S. Juliana had on him. “My temper was one of my weaknesses she addressed, and she told me to ask myself, ‘what would Jesus do in my shoes?’ There were many instances in my life, (three years in the army followed by 25 years as a Detroit Police officer) where certain circumstances made my blood boil, but her words would come to me, and I would calm down a lot of those times. I believe God put us together on earth so she could show me the way to live as a Christian gentleman.”

The joy she found in life was infectious to everyone she met; however S. Juliana was also firm in her beliefs, and she readily shared them. She was deeply committed to social justice. “You knew where she stood, whether you liked it or not!” her nephew Paul noted fondly. Family was pivotal for S. Juliana, and she cherished all the generations of her large family.

The introverted S. Alberta Bekkers was a dear friend to the more outgoing S. Juliana, and the two shared nightly cribbage games for many years. The venture started when S. Juliana declared, “We’re going to play for an hour, and you’re going to **talk!**” S. Carol Wester enjoyed watching those games, observing the two players “were a vision of what life should be” in their gentle camaraderie and helping each other see opportunities for points her opponent had missed. “We never knew who won or lost a game,” S. Alberta chuckled. “We just kept playing round and round!”

Even when plagued by health challenges, S. Juliana did not complain. Her ever-present smile belied the growing limitations and discomfort. “She had a great sense of humor,” Marian Faye spoke for herself and others on the supportive living staff. “She was a bold and strong woman ahead of her time.”

S. Juliana’s presence is deeply missed. Her unassuming manner, caring words and warm smile live in our hearts, making us better for having known this “wonderful, caring lady.”