



Sister Barbara Ann Braun

As far back as I can remember, I had a deep love for Jesus. I was especially drawn to pictures of the Sacred Heart. I loved to attend Mass with my family at the beautiful St Francis Church in Humphrey, NE. I would say to adults, “When I grow up I’m going to be a Sister, then I will pray for you.” It was a joy to visit the Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in their convent just a block from our home even before attending school. Later it was a privilege to help the Sisters with odd jobs after classes.

At the age of 13 our family moved to Omaha. I attended North High School and had little contact with Sisters. I became very active in sports, Campfire Girls, and other activities at school and fell seriously in love with a young man. The thought of entering the convent was pushed to the back of my mind although my love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament remained deep in my heart. I would frequently make a visit to the church returning from school and attend Mass whenever possible. In my senior year I was considering a trip down the aisle when I received my calling.

Kneeling in prayer at St. John’s Church at Creighton University during a Holy Week retreat the Lord said to me, “I want you for my bride.” My heart overflowed with love for Christ, and I knew that I wanted to follow His call. I felt in my heart that no earthly bridegroom could compare with having Christ as my spouse. Although I received a great deal of opposition from many sources, my childhood desire to follow Christ as a Franciscan kept growing stronger.

Knowing that the Sisters at St. Joseph Hospital were the same congregation as the Sisters teaching in Humphrey, I took the streetcar to the hospital. I approached the Sister at the Admission desk and asked, "Could you tell me how I could enter your Community of Sisters?" She ushered me to the Superior's office who put me in contact with Mother Basilia, Provincial of the Western Province. She had been Superior in Humphrey when I was young. The Sister at the Admission desk accompanied me to Lafayette, Indiana on June 25, 1933, and I received the Franciscan habit on January 6, 1934, feast of the Epiphany. What a joyful happy day that was when I truly became Christ's bride! My whole religious life has been a divine romance growing more and more in love with my Bridegroom over the years.