

Sister Alice Audette was born in Radville, Saskatchewan on January 10 1916. Her father, Gilbert Audette, and her mother, Éveline Bourassa had three girls and three boys after the death of the first two boys. Sr. Alice went to the parish primary school run by the Daughters of the Cross and was able to complete her studies in French and in English. In 1930, the family settled in Regina. Alice was 14 years old. During two years, she studied with the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. She then stayed home to help her mother.

It is at that moment that she met two Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Sisters Carissima and Opta. They were on a mission's appeal while selling the handicrafts of the sisters. Her mother invited them to supper. As Alice listened attentively to them, she felt a calling to religious life. The sisters invited her to come and see their way of life in the convents of Saint Laurent and Winnipeg. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer life, a zeal for missions deeply moved her. She requested her admission into the Institute.

In 1933 at 17, she entered the novitiate in Quebec City. There were things to give up during this first step of her religious life. With goodwill and courage, she studied French and adapted quickly to this new life. During her formation, she learnt to play the organ and taught English to the novices. She

especially studied the Scriptures, deepened her Adoration vocation, and delightfully discovered the Franciscan spirituality. In 1936, she celebrated her temporary profession and received her first posting to Winnipeg, where she taught catechism.

After discovering that she had quite an aptitude for teaching, her superiors asked her to study in the field. *It was quite a shock as I felt no calling whatsoever to become a teacher, she stated.* Nothing could deter her. With courage, she undertook her studies and obtained her Bachelor in Education from the University of Winnipeg.

She started her teaching career in Saint Laurent, Manitoba. She began with a class of 40 students from grades 5 to 8. She then taught high school. For 22 years, she was the principal of the school, whose growing fame opened the doors to higher education for the Métis community. Her teaching reputation was so impressive that she received honours for her work. Among the hundreds of teachers she formed, many held high educational and political positions in Manitoba.

After her teaching career, Sr. Alice filled other posts in the Canadian FMM province. From east to west, she was superior in Rigaud, Prince George, and Edmonton. In Calgary, she was the personal secretary of the bishop. In Prince George, she was

librarian at the college. She helped in the parishes as organist. She was a Secular Franciscan Order spiritual assistant and a member of the diocesan synod documentation team.

The life of Sister Alice is a witness to a worthy religious and a warmhearted person with great abilities. She was a very popular people person with her discrete presence and her remarkable Franciscan simplicity. She lived a life of faith, wisdom, and humanity. She delighted in the presence of Gertrude, her younger sister, who joined the FMM in 1938. Alice assisted her as a teacher in Saint Laurent. Gertrude passed away in 2013.

In 2005 at 89, Sister Alice moved to the provincial infirmary in Montreal. This new phase did not tarnish her life. She happily continued her small tasks of philately and translation. She spent much time in prayer. Every morning, she welcomed the new day as a gift from God. She found her joy and strength in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and in daily readings. She kept in her spiritual notes a quote from Michel Quoist: *Believe me; your life will be richer if you accept to grow old in the upcoming night, immobile sentinel. If you suffer of having nothing left in your hands, offer your powerlessness. Together, I tell you, we will continue to save the world.*

It is in this attitude that Alice advanced in age. She always surprised us with her sense of humour. As she weakened more and more, she offered to God the final days she had to live. She transformed them into a love song and a humble prayer. On January 10 2016, she celebrated her 100th birthday. Weakened, she showed signs of joy and on the telephone recognized her beloved sister Helena.

In June 2021, the sisters of the provincial infirmary moved to Carrefour Providence in Montreal. Sister Alice continued her daily routine. Every morning, the staff raised her for her breakfast with her sisters up to the day when she stopped eating. At that point, she became this prayer found in her spiritual notes. *Lord, I offer you these last minutes of my life. Transform them into one last love song and humble prayer until my final breath. May the glowing hope of the Resurrection bring light to this poor heart you created for all eternity.* Sister Alice, thank you and go in the peace of the Lord.



*Commemorative image
of the 50th anniversary of foundation
of Notre-Dame de la Miséricorde,
Saint-Laurent, MB in 1947.
Sr. Alice was a member of the community
from 1939 to 1968
with one year of Education studies
in Winnipeg, MB (1945-1946).*



***Sister Alice Audette
(Marie de St Magnile)***

Franciscan Missionary of Mary

born in Radville, SK

January 10 1916

entered the Institute in Quebec City, QC

September 14 1933

died in Montreal, QC

July 1 2021

***in her 106th year,
the 88th of her religious life***

May she rest in the peace of Christ!