



Sister Mary Theodora Higgins

March 27, 1919 - February 3, 2020

Sister Mary Theodora Higgins, 100 year old resident of the St. Francis Convent passed away Monday, February 3, 2020 at Claire's Residence on the St. Francis Convent Campus in Little Falls, MN. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, February 7, 2020 at the St. Francis Convent Chapel in Little Falls, MN. Burial will take place in the Franciscan Sister Community Cemetery in Little Falls, MN. Visitation will be held from 9-11 A.M. on Friday with a prayer service at 8:30 A.M. all at the St. Francis Convent in Little Falls, MN. Funeral arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

Janet Higgins was born on March 27, 1919, in St. Paul, Minn., the only child of Eben and Marian (Corser) Higgins. Her mother was an artist who specialized in the delicate art of china painting. Her father worked at Montgomery Wards. Janet inherited her mother's artistic talents, and over the years she became known for her beautiful unique craft work. During grade school she excelled in art, literature and science. The Higgins were devout Methodists who frequently attended church. But on completing grade school, Janet was enrolled at Derham Hall, a Catholic high school! However, because of her mother's illness, she had to quit school and care for her mother, who died when Janet was 20. At that time Janet began visiting other churches, seeking a place where she would feel at home. She felt called to the Catholic Church and in 1943 she was baptized a Catholic. Her friend, Helen Hofman, who was

a niece of Mother M. Anastasia Ohmann, asked her if she had thought of becoming a sister. Janet visited the Motherhouse and, five months later, entered the Franciscan Community. Janet was accepted as a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls, Minnesota, on August 12, 1944, receiving the name Sister Mary Theodora. She made first profession of vows on August 12, 1946, and final vows on August 12, 1949. Sister Theodora was a Franciscan Sister for 75 years and celebrated her 75th jubilee in August 2019. Sister Theodora's ministry was primarily in the areas of caring for the elderly. She ministered at St. Otto's Care Center, Little Falls, and at St. James Home in Perham. She also served as a prefect at St. Francis High School and as a housemother at the St. Cloud Children's Home. In her later years, Sister Theodora served in housekeeping, office work and as a dietary aide at the convent in Little Falls. She had boundless energy and was willing to serve wherever needed. She also continued her artistic endeavors and was famous for her beautiful crewel and embroidery work. Sister Theodora was devoted to the Blessed Mother and believed that becoming a Catholic, and later on a member of the Franciscan Sisters, was a gift from the Blessed Mother. While she admitted that her life had some difficult and trying times, she never wanted any other life than that of being a Franciscan Sister. She said, "I knew in my heart that this is where I belonged." Sister Theodora celebrated her 100th birthday in March 2019.

Sister Mary Theodora Higgins is survived by her Franciscan Community.

Donations to Franciscan Sisters Ministries preferred.

Cemetery Details

St. Francis Convent Cemetery

116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN

Previous Events

Prayer Service

FEB 7. 8:30 AM (CT)

St. Francis Convent
116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Visitation

FEB 7. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis Convent
116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Funeral Service

FEB 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis Convent
116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Tribute Wall

BD

“ I moved into my home in Dover and there is a painting painted by Sr.JMTheodora of a boats in the harbor.Just wondering if it was her.

Brian Duffy - October 15, 2024 at 11:46 AM



“ Sister Mary Theodora Higgins

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM

PD

“ Phyllis Dobis lit a candle in memory of Sister Mary Theodora Higgins



Phyllis Dobis - February 07, 2020 at 08:55 AM

PD

Always enjoyed visiting with Sr Theodora in the cafeteria. Loved her embroidered pillows that she made. Enjoy your heavenly reward sister.

Phyllis Dobis - February 07, 2020 at 08:57 AM

BM

“ Becky Monnier sent a virtual gift in memory of Sister Mary Theodora Higgins



Becky Monnier - February 06, 2020 at 04:28 PM

JU

“ *Sr. Theodora, your story of how you were called to the Catholic Church and to service of our Lord, touched my heart and I'm so glad that you told me about it years ago. Over the last years, we didn't get the opportunity to see each other anymore and I have always missed our visits. I know that right now, you are dancing in His presence. Rest well and enjoy your heavenly rewards for a life well lived.*

Judith - February 04, 2020 at 11:13 PM

JH

“ *Jennifer Holtz sent a virtual gift in memory of Sister Mary Theodora Higgins*



Jennifer Holtz - February 03, 2020 at 08:12 PM