



Sister Paschalita Linehan SL **February 13, 1914 – September 22, 2009**

Charlotte Dorothy Linehan was born in Montgomery, Alabama, February 13, 1914. In about 1918 the family moved to Portland, Oregon to visit her mother's people. At the age of seven Dorothy made her first Holy Communion in the Cathedral Parish where she attended 1st grade. Mrs. Linehan died, along with the youngest baby girl in Portland in December of 1923.

Due to these painful losses, Mr. Linehan drove the remaining family members across country in a Model T and they camped along the way. The family, father, son, and two daughters, lived in their grandmother's house in Montgomery. They began school in the fall of 1924 at the Sisters of Loretto. During grades 6 through 12, Dorothy attended St. Mary of Loretto receiving her high school diploma in 1931.

Dorothy's brother, four years older than she, broke his neck in a diving accident in July of 1930. It was this experience that caused her to decide to become a nurse.

Dorothy attended St. Margaret's Hospital, School of Nursing from 1931-1934 and received her R.N. in 1934. From 1934-35 she attended Webster College. Paschalita pronounced her first vows on April 25, 1938 and her perpetual vows on August 15, 1941.

Her ministry began with five years at St. Ann School in St. Louis. In 1943 she went to Loretto Heights College in Denver to study. It was there that Dorothy earned her B.S. in Nursing with minors in Chemistry and English. In 1944 Paschalita was sent to Mary Queen of Peace in Webster Groves where she remained until 1948 when she was assigned to the Department of Nursing at Loretto Heights College.

On April 26, 1946 Sister Paschalita wrote the following to Mother Edwarda Ash: "Since the Paschal season is once more being celebrated, I am again conscious of how little I like my title in religion. Ten years ago when I knew it was to be mine, the knowledge caused the first tears shed in the cloister. Then I made a "bargain" with Our Lord. ...I promised not to ask to have it changed if He would let me learn to carry a tune. Conscientiously I have tried, and yet after all this time, am unable to sing the air "Hail to the Queen." At the end of four years of endeavoring to teach music in the classroom, a substitute, unsolicited, was made whereby another Sister was delegated to teach my singing class." On April 30, 1946 Mother Edwarda wrote to Paschalita saying: "the Council have expressed their willingness to have you change your name to Dorothy Mary." A note on the May 4 thank you letter from Paschalita, says, "changed back again to Paschalita about 1948" while a note on her bio-sheet says: "Sister Dorothy Mary from June to September 1946."

In January of 1949, Paschalita was released to study at the Agricultural College in Ft. Collins. Later that year she returned to Loretto Heights College where she remained until 1964 when she began work at the Jesuit Apostolic Center in El Paso, Texas. After two years, Paschalita returned to Loretto Heights. From 1968-1970 she attended James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, where she studied Home Management, Design and Tailoring.

For the 1970 school year Paschalita taught Home Economics at Holy Family High in Denver. Then in 1971, still in Denver, she worked with Park Manor Dietary and served as diabetic dietitian at St. Luke's Presbyterian Hospital. From 1975 until 1990 Sister was involved in a variety of less demanding responsibilities at Cathedral parish, St. James Parish, and Loretto Center. At Cathedral parish she encouraged the development of what is now Samaritan House shelter, served as a secretary, assisted transients, and homeless, as well as served on the sandwich line. Paschalita also kept close relations with LHC alumnae.

She decided to semi-retire after being diagnosed with macular degeneration in 1990. By 1998 she was fully retired. On September 14, 2004 she came to the Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary where she died on September 22, 2009. God bless you, Paschalita!

Adapted from material from Kate Misbauer SL