

Sister Clara Pelletier, s.g.m.

" Love keeps you alive.

If you don't have love, you have nothing."

It was love, and the love of music, that brought a shy young girl from Richer, Manitoba out of her shell and to the convent in St. Anne when she was only 14 years old and led her to become a Grey Nun (Sisters of Charity of Montreal) just a few years later.

In 1936, Sister Clara graduated from the Nursing Education Program at St. Boniface Hospital and began a career of tending to the sick and injured. It was a calling that would take her across Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Québec.

In larger hospitals, she oversaw multiple wards. She served in the TB sanatorium on the site that is now St. Amant, and contracted tuberculosis herself. In the Berens River Nursing Station, she delivered babies, pulled teeth and cared for the day to day ailments of patients on her own. "I was very innocent, but I had some training in confinement from Dr. Henri Guyot as well as teeth extraction under the direction of a dentist at St. Boniface Hospital. I was fortunate that the first baby I delivered on my own was to a woman who was having her 14th child."

Always willing to do what was necessary, her duties in the small town hospital of Ste. Rose du Lac included keeping the wood stove going in the winter and stirring the lumps out of the cream of wheat for 5:00 am breakfast.

Through a lifetime of prayer, Sister Clara has stayed practical and current in difficult and joyous times. She learned to drive in Regina in the '70s and took music training while on sabbatical. She fought to improve nursing techniques at all her postings. She has always taken good care of herself and is known throughout Résidence Despins for her home remedies and health advice. And she makes a great pot of soup! A few years ago, in her 90s, Sister Clara took some computer courses at the local college. Now she creates cards and sends e-mails to friends and family.

Recently, for her 99th birthday, she enjoyed three birthday celebrations. "I have been blessed to live a life of service and to be able to provide comfort, love and kindness."



Her love of God, wisdom, compassion and happiness are obvious as we sit together and talk.





December 2010

January 2011

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		Winter Solstice				Christmas Day
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Boxing Day						



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