

Sister Miriam Rubel
June 14, 1923 – May 7, 2015

On June 14, 1923, Marcella Rose was born to Charles Rubel and Ida E. Budde /Rubel. Her birth place was Paxton (Dallas), South Dakota. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Gregory, South Dakota.

She entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Denver, Colorado, in 1941 and professed her first vows in 1943. She received the religious name Miriam.

Sister Miriam's passion was health care. She commented that her religious life was strengthened by her love of and involvement in health care. Her desire to learn was with her all during her life, whether she was a student nurse, lab technician, interim administrator, nursing home administrator, or the administrator at Marian Residence. Her perspective was always focused on the needs of the person/s in her care.

In 1955, Sister Miriam received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and began her career in health care as a Registered Nurse in a rural hospital, working in all aspects of nursing care. Maternity nursing was her love ... witnessing the miracle of new life! She lived in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, until 1955, and then returned to Minot, North Dakota, for the next twenty years. It was difficult for her to give up direct patient care.

She established a Nursing Service Department at St. Joseph Hospital in Minot, North Dakota, after receiving her Master's Degree in Nursing Service. She soon realized she could help others see health care as a ministry, rather than a business. In order to accomplish this goal, Sr. Miriam received a Master of Science degree in Nursing Service Administration.

Sister Miriam was gifted in administrative skills. She loved people and brought forth the best in the people she met and worked with. She supported the whole person. Her spirit was full of life. She lived the sacredness of each moment.

Sister Miriam gave workshops, on Nursing Service Administration in North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and Nebraska. From 1990-1996, she served on the Board as Chair for the Sacred Heart Corporation and the Foundation Board, along with serving on health care nursing boards and committees.

In 1977, Sr. Miriam's ministry in health care brought her to St. Joseph Hospital at Alliance, Nebraska. She became administrator of Marian Residence in 1980. In 1990, Sr. Miriam moved to Kenmare, North Dakota, to be the interim administrator at Kenmare Hospital.

Her ministry of long-term care, caring for her elderly and retired Sisters at Marian Residence, was her "crowning ministry." She lovingly journeyed with them while they died.

She continued her ministry of service to others in Alliance and O'Neill, Nebraska, along with Denver, Colorado. Sr. Miriam was a moderator for the Franciscan Associates in Alliance and O'Neill, along with teaching bible classes and making communion calls to the homebound.

In humility, she moved to Marian Residence retirement home in 2010. She continued her ministry of outreach to check in with Sisters, family and friends. She had a real concern for others. Sr. Miriam had a gift of connection with others.

Sr. Miriam died on Thursday, May 7, 2015, with the Sisters praying with her. Nieces, nephews, and good friends came to visit and be with her. Her health declined quickly in the last two weeks of her life. Sr. Miriam's funeral Mass of the Resurrection was held at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, in Alliance, Nebraska, and her burial was at Calvary Cemetery, also in Alliance, Nebraska. Father Stephen Deaver officiated at the Mass and burial.

Sisters of St Francis, Marian Residence