

## **Sister Norberta's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**October 1, 2020**

### **Sister Pearl Ceasar**

What a day to celebrate!!! Today, Sister Norberta Honza turns 100 years old! We celebrate her life filled with years of love and faith. The 36,500 days she has spent in this world are an exceptional milestone. What an amazing 100 years she has lived.

Sister Norberta was born October 1, 1920 in Ennis, Texas to a Czech mother and Texan father. She had seven siblings, one of which entered religious life—Sister Julian Honza.

Sister Norberta came to the Congregation on June 4, 1936 when she was 16 years old. She entered with twenty other candidates and Mother Philothea was Superior General. There were 654 CDP Sisters at the time. We later grow to 750. Sister Norberta knew 11 Superior Generals. Sister Norberta became a novice on June 21, 1940 and Sr. Callista Baltz was her Novice Director.

Over the past one-hundred years, Sister Norberta has witnessed multiple events that have changed our world.

- Two months before she was born, the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment was passed, giving women the right to vote. This historical event was then followed by the Great Depression of 1929-1936.
- She lived through Pearl Harbor in 1941, World War II between 1939-1945 and the Holocaust.
- The Korean War and the Vietnam War also took place.
- She lived through the race riots and the civil rights movement between 1954-1968.
- She lived through the 9/11 terrorist attacks.  
She witnessed 18 US Presidents and 22 Texas Governors in her lifetime.
- In the Catholic Church, she lived through Vatican II and experienced 8 Popes. Before this, as we remember, Mass was in Latin.  
She wore the habit for 26 years.

- In the Congregation, Sister Norberta entered before there was a Sister formation movement or an LCWR. Regan Hall, McCullough Hall Nursing Center and Annunciation Chapel had not yet been built.
- Our Lady of the Lake College was only on this side of 24<sup>th</sup> Street and the student population was less than 1,000.

Sister Norberta, you have lived through all these historical events.

In our own CDP history, you are more than a centenarian.

You personify how CDP's serve others and bring Christ to them in their daily lives. Story of St. Francis Xavier in Alexandria. 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Buddy, Roscoe and Larry. Would do anything for you because you made them feel important and taught them to be men.

Thank you. Thank you for gracing our lives with your wit and wisdom.

May you celebrate today and everyday as you live out your faith and continue your journey for years to come.