



## Sr. Dianne Skubby

BORN: October 1937

ENTERED CONGREGATION: JANUARY 21, 1955

DIED: November 4, 2014

**O**n November 4, 2014, Sister Dianne Skubby, or as many of us affectionately called her, "Skubby," was set free and went home to her heavenly Father. Dianne and her twin brother Daniel were born in October 1937, in Cleveland, Ohio. Their appearance was a joyful surprise for her parents, Victorine (Hinkel) and Carl Skubby, since no one, the doctors nor her parents were expecting twins. Five years later, Dianne's family was completed with the birth of her sister Marianne. Dianne wrote, "Although we were materially poor, we had the riches of our faith, all the necessities of life, and a loving family. Our parents taught us gratitude, loyalty, and fidelity."

Dianne and her family attended Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in Cleveland and that is where she first met the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Dianne was taught by them from kindergarten through the eighth grade in the parish school. Dianne loved and admired those Sisters and they were the ones who fostered her religious vocation. After the eighth grade, she came to Dayton for her high school and then in 1954 she formally entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood. When she became a novice she was given the religious name of Sister Daniel Marie and in 1957 she made her profession.

In her early years of ministry, Dianne was a teacher, she loved to teach. She was a very good teacher and her students loved her. She not only taught full-time but because of her musical gifts she led choirs and played the organ in parishes. Dianne taught in Escondido, California; Denver, Colorado; Sedalia, Missouri, and a number of schools in Ohio. Her gifts were many, her energy boundless, and each child knew that

God loved them deeply because Sister Dianne said it was so and they believed every word that Sister Dianne said. In her last years as a full-time teacher in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Dianne also taught religious education to the developmentally handicapped. In response to a letter in the local newspaper, Dianne wrote the following, "Though I am considered their teacher of religion and prayer, I have actually become a student of theirs. I have learned of God's goodness and love, His Fatherly care and concern, His peace, love, and joy, from my 'gifted' children." Who of us in this chapel today would not want a teacher like Sister Dianne?

In the late 1970s, Dianne moved out of the classroom. She received a certification in Church Music and Liturgy from the St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana and served as the liturgical and music minister in a couple of parishes in Indiana. Those experiences would lead her to become a pastoral associate in parishes in Indiana and Ohio. Finally Dianne moved back home to Cleveland where she ministered in a number of parishes in the Cleveland Diocese. No matter what ministry Dianne was engaged in she brought enthusiasm, joy, energy, and a love for God's people, especially those who daily face many challenges and difficulties.

For many years Dianne would volunteer for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. In an article in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* concerning the Society, Dianne is featured. The following is a quote from the article: "Dust bunnies, beware, Sister Dianne Skubby is in the house. Skubby, a small, gray-haired dynamo in sneakers and jeans drags a dust mop under clothing racks, folds bed linens, hangs clothes, helps people find the right sizes, stuffs envelopes or simply listens. 'I've got energy up the wazoo,' Skubby says. Skubby has heard a wide range of stories from clients. Some have been burned out of

their homes, others were kicked out by their significant other, and yet others have an alcoholic or imprisoned family member. 'I'm sort of for the underdog. They're human beings, too, and they don't need to be written off.'" No matter where Dianne is located she finds a way to help the neediest to know that they are special.

One cannot know Dianne and not know that she loved her hometown. Cleveland and her Brooklyn neighborhood were very special to her. She kept up with her friends from her childhood, especially the members of her Girl Scout Troop. You would get a talking to if you in any way disparaged her hometown. You also knew by looking at her face if her Cleveland team won or lost. The Browns, the Indians, the Cavaliers; Dianne rejoiced with their victories and suffered through their losses, she was not a fair-weather fan but a very faithful one.

For many of us our image of Dianne is of a woman in constant motion, who told wonderful stories, and who liked puns and jokes. She is wearing a Cleveland t-shirt of some kind, slacks or shorts, and tennis shoes. While the outfit did not change over these last several years, and she could still tell those stories, puns, and jokes, her ability to get around did, due to a number of health conditions. These health conditions would lead Dianne to move to Salem Heights in 2013 and finally to Emma Hall in 2014. Dianne, all of us are better for having you in our life.

We know that you, with your mother and dad, are rooting on those Cleveland teams even as you bask in Jesus's love. Thank you, Dianne, for faithfulness to your family, your Congregation, your hometown, and to your God.

— Sister Linda Pleiman