

August 3, 2020

Dear Associates and Sisters,

We lost a caring and talented mom, grandmother, friend and teacher when Myrtle Howe went home to be with the Lord on July 25, 2020. Myrtle married Frederick M. Howe Sr. and they had five children. Even though she was working full time she went to college at nights and on weekends and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. Through the years Myrtle worked at many schools around the Crow Reservation. She was always willing to share her knowledge of the Crow culture, language, music, dance and history.



A long time resident of Crow Agency she first met the Sisters from Oldenburg as a student at St. Francis Xavier Mission School. She wanted to remain close to them and to their Catholic faith and teaching mission. Her relationship with Sister Pat Bietsch led her to become an Associate in 2001. Myrtle's sisters, Rose Ann Reed and Annette Couture are also Associates. She was happy to remember everyone in her prayers, especially as she prayed for peace during her daily rosary. Myrtle felt that meeting with Associates after mass or at Prayer Lodge enriched her prayer life and brought her closer to God. During a visit from the Associate Co-directors she was commissioned as a Minister of Praise. They remembered that she responded to this call with a joyful song.

She was well known for having been given sacred songs and she sang beautifully in her Crow language. Sister Marya Grathwohl remembered traveling together to a music ministers' meeting in Billings," Myrtle told me the story of each song and then sang it for me. She shared many stories and songs with me during the two hour drive. The feeling I got from that time together was that she had been given the songs from God, from the Holy Spirit, and she was called by God to share them by singing. When I asked her how she made up or composed the songs, she said something like, "Oh Sister, I don't compose the songs, I catch them from the Holy Spirit. The songs are from God. They come to me."

As Myrtle grew spiritually she began to pray to St. Clare and St. Francis to help her follow Jesus with total trust. Her joy was to live her life giving hope to others. How blessed we have been and are by Myrtle's Ministry of Praise in word and song. Heaven is blessed!

Carolyn Meyer