

Marie Adele Monette; Sister Gaspard. (1881-1962)

Adele Monet was born on June 12, 1881, at St. Joseph, the daughter of Modeste Monet and Virginie Ritchot (the daughter of Joseph Richot and Marguerite Martel). Adele's paternal grandparents were Michel Monet *dit* Belhumeur (b. 1802) and Josephte Bruyere. Adele's siblings were Julie born 1878 and Jacob Stephen born 1883.

Modeste Monet died suddenly on December 9, 1883 at age 33 due to an accident. His daughters Marie Adele and her sister, Julie, were then placed in an orphanage at Graceville, Minnesota where they also attended school.

Eventually Adele went to live with a relative in Winnipeg. When the St. Boniface pastor noticed that Adele no longer attended Catechism classes and had not yet made her first Communion, he insisted that her guardians place her under the care of the Grey Nuns when Adele was 13 years old. Mother Hamel, the superior at that time placed her as an aide in the kitchen. She had an older sister teach her classes at night.

Adele was received into the novitiate of the Little Auxiliary Sisters on the 30th November 1899. She made her Profession of Vows on July 31, 1902. She is considered to be the first Metis from the Turtle Mountain/ St. Joseph area to become a religious Sister.

She was then assigned to work for several months in the foundling Section of the Tache Hospital. Then in 1903 she was assigned to work at the very poor Mission of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, at Fort Totten, North Dakota. Here she was put in charge of the laundry. On December 1926 the church, school and other buildings of the Mission were burned down except for the laundry room of Sister Adele Monet. She was then recalled to St. Boniface to the Tache Hospice (1927-1931), the hospital in St. Boniface and then Fort Frances, taking care of laundry and sometimes cooking. Subsequently she was nominated to go to the St. Vital Sanatorium, her last assignment, where she spent 22 years.

On April 13, 1953, she retired to the infirmary of the Provincial House and on July 31, 1962 she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. She died on November 1, 1962.

Reference:

St. Ann's Centennial History Book, Belcourt North Dakota: Turtle Mountain Indian Historical Society, Centennial Book Committee, Stella Davis - Coordinator, 1985: 73.



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