



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton

Joy in Christ
100Jubilee
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Jubilee 100 Biography Project

Biography of Mary “Noreen” Gladys German

Submitted by St. Anthony Parish, Lloydminster

I was born December 7, 1929, in North Battleford, Saskatchewan to Martin and Gladys McGrath. I was baptized in North Battleford and confirmed in Maymont, Saskatchewan. I was raised on a farm in the Speers district and while growing up we attended mass in Fielding, Saskatchewan. This small country church is now part of the museum in North Battleford.

I took Grades 1 through 9 at a country school. Grades 10, 11 and 12 were taken at the convent of the Child Jesus in North Battleford, which I attended as a boarder, graduating in 1947. In July of that year I began working for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Richard, Saskatchewan. During my 11 years with the bank I was transferred to several different branches: Blaine Lake and Wadena, Saskatchewan; Threherne, Manitoba; and the last five years in Saskatoon. While in Saskatoon, I attended mass at St. Paul’s Cathedral and belonged to St. Paul’s Business Girl’s Club.

I married Fred German on August 2, 1958. We lived in St. Walburg for six months and then moved to Lloydminster in February 1959. There our family of two boys and two girls (Bob, Pat, Cathy, and Jim) were born. Bob is a chartered accountant in Calgary, Pat is a nurse in North Battleford, Cathy is the office manager for the company she and her husband own. Jim works for Christie Corrosion and is studying to be a massage therapist. They are all married and we are blessed with eight grandchildren, six boys and two girls.

Fred and I loved to bowl, curl and most of all dance, which we did until Parkinson’s Disease made it impossible for him to do so. As his illness progressed, he needed to be placed in a care home. This was the hardest thing I have ever had to do. It broke my heart. I visited every day trying to give him as much love and attention as possible. His stay there was three years when he died in April 2000. Suddenly I was really alone and after all the arrangements and funeral were over I felt absolutely numb. It was only with the help of God and the support of my family and friends that I managed.

Time passes and I began to rebuild my life. A year later I sold the house and bought a suite in a condominium. I really like it here and have made many new friends among the residents. Having more time now, I am able to take a more active part in CWL and Parish activities. I am an adult server and also take communion to those in nursing homes. I feel very humbled to be able to distribute the Eucharist at Mass as well as to those unable to attend at St. Anthony’s. They are so thankful to be able to receive. The CWL took on two projects which I co-ordinate. One is to bake muffins weekly for Mother Cynthia who ministers to the native people at Onion Lake. She likes to serve muffins to her weekly Sunday School class. The other is to knit shawls for the Father Gorman School “Prayer Shawl” project.

I have been involved in the community with canvassing for Cancer, Diabetes, Hear & Stroke, etc. I also volunteer for the Health District at the Wellness Clinics and was on the executive of the Parkinson’s Support group. I have worked as a Poll Clerk at several elections, both provincial and federal and assisted with the last census.

For two years I was a member of St. Anthony's parish Pastoral Council. In addition I am also a member of the CWL. I first joined the CWL in 1947 in Richard, Saskatchewan. Over the years I was living in places where there was no CWL so I let my membership lapse; however, after coming to Lloydminster I was happy to rejoin. I volunteered for six years as Parish Activities Convenor, two years as President-Elect, two years as President and two years as Past-President. Over the years I have been convenor of different groups as member at large. I help with funeral lunches when I can and help with other projects. My years with CWL have been very rewarding. I have learned and grown spiritually, have made new friends and find my life deeply enriched.

This is a brief summary of my life which I close by thanking God for my many blessings.