

## SR. AURELIE MICHAUD, D.W. RECOGNIZED FOR 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY



Sr. Aurelie Michaud, D.W., was recognized for 75 years of religious profession in a special mass celebrated by Fr. James Albert on January 31, 2015 at St. Agatha Church in Maine. Sr. Aurelie and her sister, Dorilda Daigle did the offertory. At the end of the Mass, Father Albert congratulated her and remarked at how great she looks after so many years of service.

The celebration continued Monday with a luncheon at the Lakeview Restaurant attended by over 24 guests including the Daughters of Wisdom of northern Maine, family and friends. Her nephew and niece, Aurel and Joanne Lavoie, honored her with a video presentation of her life. The St. John Valley Times published a featured interview by Tory Bonenfant. And the local radio station, Channel X offered congratulations and even dedicated a song to her. "How Do You Talk To An Angel?"

At 93 years old, Sr. Aurelie Michaud, D.W., having made her first profession on February 2, 1940, has spent most of her life as a woman religious. Over the 75 years, she has had two distinct careers, as an educator and a healthcare practitioner.

Those careers took her from Ottawa, Ontario in the beginning of her ministry and returned her in her retirement in 2008 to her hometown St. Agatha, Maine where today she resides at Montfort Heights.



The years were full of diverse experience for Sr. Aurelie who after training in Ontario came to Long Island, New York in the early 40's. She began her journey as a special education teacher for children with developmental disabilities at Wharten Memorial Hospital, today known as Maryhaven Center of Hope in Port Jefferson, NY. She also worked in the neighboring St. Charles Hospital, established by the Daughters of Wisdom in 1905, when during the time of the Polio epidemic, it was a residential orthopedic hospital. After graduating from nursing school in the early 50's, she returned to St. Charles Hospital where she was a nurse for 20 years. For

a few years after her retirement in 1973 from St. Charles, she ministered to the healthcare needs of the Sisters in Sound Beach, NY before returning to St. Agatha Maine. There she would stay until 1977, doing

parish work and serving as a visiting nurse, before being called to Appalachia, West Virginia where she would work until 1984 in a children's clinic.

She returned to Long Island, NY where she worked for a homeless shelter in Uniondale and volunteered at a shelter for people with HIV and AIDS. Sr. Aurelie claims some of her happiest memories are the result of the experience of doing this work. The 90's returned Sr. Aurelie back to the work of a contact person for elderly sisters in Bristol and then in Terryville, CT.

She concluded her career as a house sister and volunteer at Wisdom Center in Lewiston, Maine in 2008 after serving 11 years working with disadvantaged children and women.



Today back in her hometown, of St. Agatha, Maine, Sr. Aurelie is still an active member of the parish community taking part in the weekly Mass and Holy hour, preparing and hosting the monthly Wisdom Circle, and serving as the contact for a yearly Spirituality workshop held in September. Known as a strong emotional support for her family, in her quiet

time she finds herself involved in reading and prayer, all the while enjoying the small changes in her small town-those which include a library and a few new businesses.

About the photos:

Top: To commemorate her 75th Jubilee, The St. John Valley Times published a featured interview by Tory Bonenfant.

Middle: Daughters of Wisdom of northern Maine came together to celebrate Sr. Aurelie's Anniversary. Sitting are Sr. Aurelie Michaud, and Sr. Candide Corriveau. Standing: are Sr. Joanne Ayotte and Sr. Jackie Ayotte.

Bottom: Pictured with her family are (sitting): Alma Chasse, Sr. Aurelie Michaud, Dorilda and Normand Daigle. Standing: Roberta Guerrette, Carlene Pelletier, Joan and Aurel Lavoie, Patricia Dow (in front of Aurel) Rachel Marquis and Donald Michaud.