

Florence was born April 2nd, 1934, in St-Laurent, a Metis village on the banks of Lake Manitoba. Her father, Jules Buors, and her mother, Emma Lambert, had 16 children: 11 boys and 5 girls. Florence was the fifth and the first girl. Her parents were proud Canadians. They had a large farm. They took care of all the needs of their children. They were pleased to see them flourish before their eyes. *With so many children, said Florence, adventures were part of our lives with their lot of joys, fears, happiness, and sacrifices. This led to very tight bonds between us that still last today. My parents were fervent Catholics and ensured that we all walk in their footsteps. They left us a very precious heritage.*

Florence attended the FMM school in St-Laurent. Seeing her aptitude for teaching, they encouraged her to continue her studies at their school in Rigaud. There she obtained her bilingual teaching certificate. In 1957, she completed a teaching certificate at the University of Manitoba.

Florence felt the call to religious life grow over the years. In her family, God was the first served. At school, the teachings and the presence of the sisters fascinated her. In the parish during the preparation of the initial sacraments, she felt a love for Jesus only awaken in her. At eighteen during her stay in Rigaud, she decided to give her life to him. *I wished to help the poor and the less fortunate, she said, and it was with Jesus that I could fulfill this dream.* When she asked her parents for their permission to enter religious life, they were taken aback, but delighted.

They respected her choice with much love. *When the time came to leave, the whole family had a very hard time saying goodbye. God's grace was with us. I was twenty years old when I entered the FMM novitiate in Quebec City. I was with sisters that I had known and loved since my childhood.*

My formation followed its course without too many mishaps. However, I was very aware that life would not always be easy. I did believe that God would be with me through it all. It is with these attitudes that Florence allowed herself to be formed. She was rather shy, but she accepted with humility all moments that threw her for a loop. God was always there to pick her up.

After her temporary profession, what joy to be asked to teach in her home parish of St-Laurent, Manitoba. For the next 15 years, she taught from the youngest classes to grade twelve. She taught seven of her brothers and sisters who enjoyed playing tricks on her. Over the years, she became principal of St-Laurent College. There she challenged her Metis students to go forth in the world and make something of it. *Students, she told them, remember that tomorrow's adult is you! Be a forerunner of progress! You must aim high, be ready to climb slopes to reach the summit. These climbs will require your efforts as you grow.* These young Metis, in their drive to learn and to protect their culture, became lieutenant governor, member of parliament, and gifted teachers.

In 1978, things changed for Florence. After studies in Spirituality at Gonzaga University

in Spokane, USA, and in Spiritual Direction she was named novice mistress. She then became superior. She animated the communities of Rigaud, Ottawa, Calgary, Winnipeg, and Montreal. In St-Boniface, she directed retreats. 1984, she was elected to attend the Institute's general chapter in Rome.

Later, after having modestly reread the events of her life, Sister Florence wrote, *The years went by without noise or complications. I have no complaints. I rejoice in this beautiful life God gave me.* Her religious companions noted how they were blessed by her kindness, her patience, and her love. She always tried to bring them closer to God.

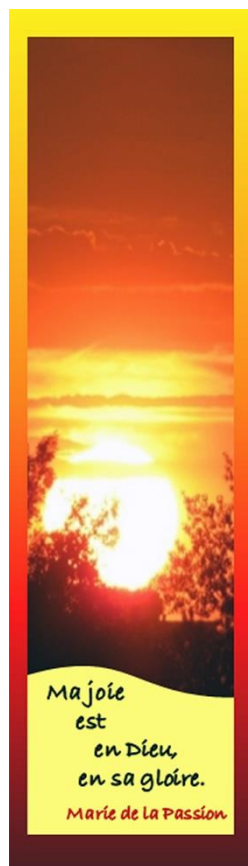
Sister Florence had another gift. She was an excellent secretary. At every meeting she ended up the secretary. For a while, she was a parish secretary in Winnipeg and then a secretary at the Archdiocese of St-Boniface. In 2007, she was transferred to the provincialate in Ottawa. She oversaw travels for our sisters coming to Canada. She prepared with diligence the necessary letters and forms for passports and visas.

In 2016, her health declined with the onset of rheumatoid arthritis. During arthrosis attacks, she showed great courage and never complained. She insisted on continuing her work. As she required more medical care, she was admitted to the provincial infirmary in Montreal. With the efforts of her doctors, the pain subsided, but was always keeping her on her toes.

In the infirmary, with the strength she could muster, she never missed visiting the sicker sisters with love. She paid attention to each one and brought them great joy with her presence. A temporary professed sister was impressed when she saw Florence work on her computer. *At her age, I am amazed to see her communicating through the Internet. She gives news of the infirmary to the other convents. This clearly shows her high sense of family.*

In June 2021 with the other sisters of the infirmary, she moved to Carrefour Providence. She was a source of strength for each of her sisters on her daily visits. In the evening of her life as illness grew, in the silence of her room, she thought of all the years past and she wrote, *God never said life would be easy, but he made the promise that he would be with us until the end of times. This presence was the joy of my vocation. I have felt my God's love throughout each event of my life.*

On July 4, 2023, in the early hours of the morning, Sister Florence suffered a massive stroke. She was rushed to the hospital where she unfortunately did not survive. She left in peace to meet face to face the God to whom she had given her life. Beloved Florence rest in peace.



My joy is in God and his glory.
Mary of the Passion
125th of the province bookmarker
found in her Bible.



**Sister Florence Buors
(Marie du Crucifix)**

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

**born in St-Laurent, Manitoba
April 2 1934**

**entered the Institute in Quebec City, QC
on September 15 1954**

**died in Montreal, QC
on July 7 2023**

**in her 90th year,
the 69th of her religious life.**

May she rest in the peace of Christ!