



Sister Andrea Vaughn

1920-2005

Sister Andrea Vaughn was 18 years old when she joined the Daughters of Charity in 1941. The firstborn of six, she was most like her father Andrew. He was not a fan of her inclination toward religious life and forbade her from leaving home. Sister Andrea was never one to take “no” for an answer. In a fit of sacred disobedience she packed a bag, went to the train station, and bought a one-way ticket to St. Louis.

On learning of his daughter's departure, Mr. Vaughn took off in hot pursuit, catching the next westbound train. Unfortunately for him, it was a local train, and Sister Andrea arrived substantially earlier. Her father found her at the Daughters of Charity Provincial headquarters where he demanded she return to Nashville.

Father and daughter both being of resolute conviction, the Superior found herself negotiating a truce which resulted in Sister Andrea staying on a “trial basis.” She comforted Mr. Vaughn by explaining Daughters of Charity do not make perpetual vows. They renew their vows simultaneously each year on the Feast of the Annunciation.

Her “trial term” lasted 64 years and saw Sister Andrea missioned to San Francisco, Milwaukee, New Orleans and Nashville. Along the way she earned a bachelor’s and master’s in Social Work and would lead Catholic Charities of Tennessee for nine years as its Director.

Robust in both character and voice, Sister Andrea was never in doubt. She remained active as a full time information desk overseer regaling one and all with stories of her life.

Shared by Greg Pope, CMIO, Ascension Saint Thomas in Tennessee