

Sister M. Anacleto Holthaus

Christina Holthaus 1866-1950

Personal History – Daughter of Theodore and Elisabeth Vierhaus Holthaus

I was born at Festina, Iowa, July 13, 1866, and baptized two days later at St. Mary's Church of the same place. I was the eighth of nine children. When I was four years old, I had a severe attack of dropsy, but was restored to health in a short time by Dr. Dant of Waucoma.

When six years of age I started the parochial school at Festina, which was taught by the Franciscan Sister of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. I received my First Holy Communion when twelve years old, Rev. Father Sauter, was pastor at the time. After that I did not attend school anymore.

My father died when I was thirteen, and my mother was always sickly, so I had to stay home and help to do the work there. I was confirmed in my eighteenth year, by Bishop Hennessy of Dubuque.

As a child I was very timid and dreaded to appear before strangers. My mother died when I was twenty, and I stayed with my two brothers at the old home and kept house for them. After my mother died I had to deal more with outside people, and thus got over that backward feeling.

Things went on this way for few years, we worked hard but also had many pleasures at home and among the neighbors. About my twenty-fourth year, I suddenly took such a dislike for all worldly pleasures, that I resolved to quit them entirely.

My vocation to the religious life, I owe to the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. On the twenty-fifth of March, 1891, I entered St. Rose Convent and was received July 2 of that same year. The first two years of religious life, I did housework. The next fifteen years were spent at St. Francis Hospital nursing the sick and the last eighteen years, fifteen have been spent as a chicken nurse and all kinds of jobs.

Profession: Nursing and Housework

Entrance into Novitiate July 2, 1891

Date of Profession July 13, 1893

Date of Final Vows July 9, 1903

Date of Death - May 16, 1950 at St. Francis Hospital. Burial May 19, 1950 at LaCrosse

Cause of death: Arteriosclerotic heart disease, Senility, Advance rheumatoid arthritis, generalize.

Family History

My father, Theodore Holthaus, was born in Germany, May 10, 1825, and my mother, Elisabeth Vierhaus, February 11, 1828. Soon after their marriage they sailed to America. They became the earliest settlers in Winneshiek County, Iowa. Here they built a log cabin on a farm of about 300 acres. Nine children were born to them. There were five boys and four girls. The oldest boy died at the age of nineteen of typhoid fever. One girl and one boy died in infancy. Of the six remaining children, two boys and two girls were married. They brought up large families. My youngest brother remained single. Up to the age of fifty-five my father's health was fairly good. Then he contracted pneumonia and died after an illness of only three weeks, on May 29, 1880. My mother enjoyed good health up to the age of forty years. Later she was afflicted with rheumatism and nerve trouble. She died October 27, 1886 at the age of fifty-seven. My parents were always fervent Catholics, and they died well prepared. They are buried at Festina.



Theodor and Elizabeta (Vierhaus) Holthaus



Christina Holthaus



Holthaus Family
August, Agatha, Clem, Dorothea,
Alois, Sr. Anacleta (Christina)