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Sister Florecita Bittner to Celebrate 100th Birthday



Millvale, PA, November 23, 2011 – A Sister of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities for 82 years, Sister Florecita Bittner will turn 100 on Dec. 5. Sister Florecita will celebrate her birthday during a party at noon Dec. 4. About 70 of her family members and her sisters in community will be at Mount Alvernia, 146 Hawthorne Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15209 to join in the celebration.

Following her birth on the SS Uranian in mid-ocean when her mother was returning home from visiting relatives in Hungary, Sister Florecita was raised on Pittsburgh's North Side. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis from St. Wenceslaus Parish. Eager to provide missionary service to people in need, she was one of the first sisters from the congregation to serve in the mission fields of Puerto Rico. Here, she provided religious education and visited people with Hansen's disease (leprosy). In addition, she served as cook and laundress. After 16 years, she returned to the states and among other assignments, served as cook at Mount Alvernia for 39 years.

Sister Florecita is well-known for creating unique and delicious meals, at times with an "appetizing" sense of humor. Although she enjoyed preparing any meal, one of her favorites is apple pie. In fact, she says she attributes her longevity to her "good cooking."

A woman of deep faith, Sister Florecita prays daily and gives generously of her time and talents. In addition, she enjoys visiting with her nieces and nephews.