



SISTER CELEBRATES 103rd BIRTHDAY



SAINT JOHN, N.B. – Sister Eva Bonokoski celebrated her 103rd birthday June 29, 2017 at Ruth Ross Residence in Saint John on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Father Michael LeBlanc presided at the eucharistic liturgy in Carmel Chapel. Sister Mary Beth McCurdy thanked Sister Eva for her long years of hospitality and love of God and people. “You have shared all of your heart with us and with the world,” added the congregational leader of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception (SCIC). Sisters and guests later enjoyed a festive dinner celebrating Sister Eva’s birthday and the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation. On her birthday, Sister Eva received encouragement from Sister Irene Buechler to sing in German, recalling a carol from her youth. Here is a [link](#) to a video of them singing “Stille Nacht”, or Silent Night together

Sister Eva was born June 29, 1914 in Torquay, Sask. and entered the SCIC in Saint John in 1935. She received the religious name Sister Celia Marie. For most of her religious life, she supervised food preparation and served as homemaker at SCIC houses, missions and hospitals in New Brunswick, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. She also ministered as assistant to the formation director of novices from 1954-67 in Saint John. From 1984-88, Sister Eva supervised food and housekeeping services at Villa Madonna Retreat House in Rothesay, N.B. She continues to participate regularly in liturgies at the Sisters’ retirement residence.

~ Photo by Michelle MacNeill. Video by Pat Poole, SCIC.