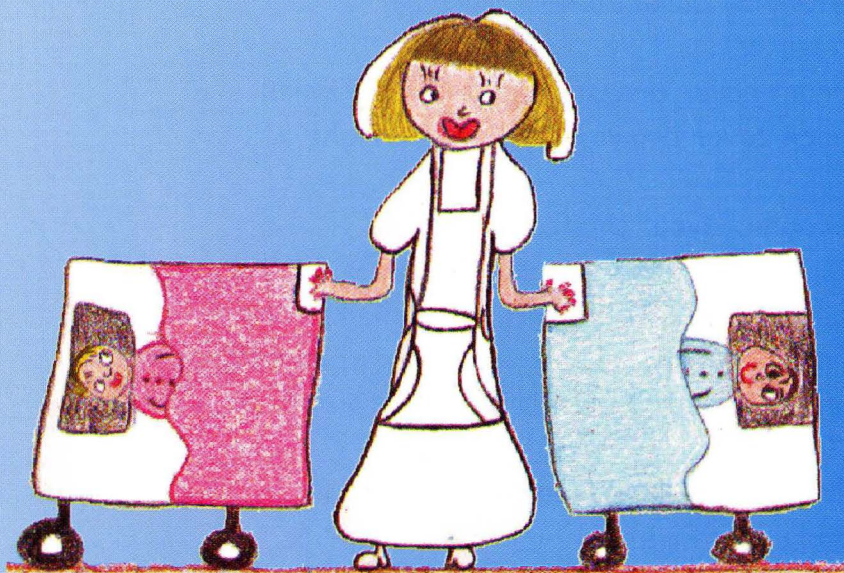


A Special Lady in White



Published by
St. Rose Dominican Hospital's
Women's Committee

Story by Carol Bower

Front cover drawing by Amanda O'Brien

Back cover drawing by Casey Wright

Graphic layout by Jean Byrd

Illustrated by third grade students from
Fay Galloway, Edna Hinman, Aggie Roberts
and C.T. Sewell Elementary Schools

Printed by Black Mountain Graphics
and Laser Print

Published by The St. Rose Dominican Hospital
Women's Committee

Henderson, Nevada
March 1999



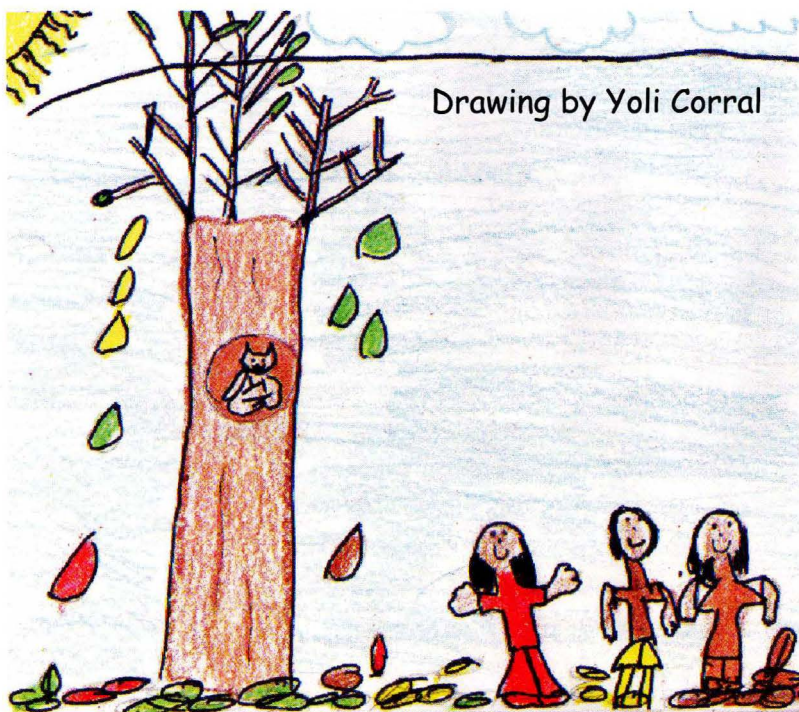
This book belongs to:

It was early in the day on September 7, 1907. Josephine Lundy summoned her husband, Bill, to take her to Mercy Hospital.



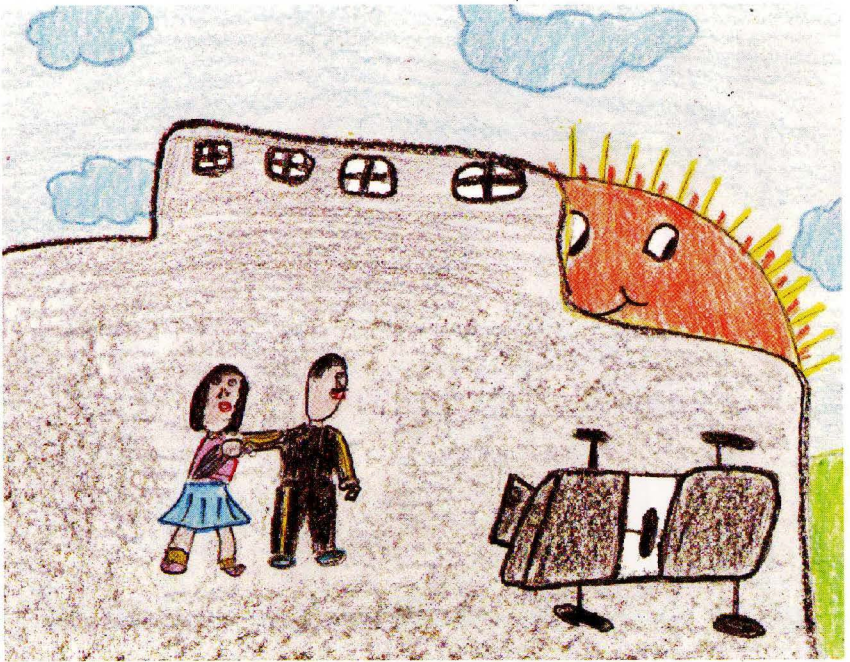
The time for her to deliver a child was close at hand.

Three other Lundy children were nearby playing. Mr. Lundy summoned them into the house for lunch, then whisked them off to Grandma's house.



There they would enjoy tumbling in the piles of leaves Grandpa had recently raked.

Finally Mr. Lundy, dressed in his Policeman's uniform, hastened his wife into their Model-T Ford and drove rapidly to the hospital.



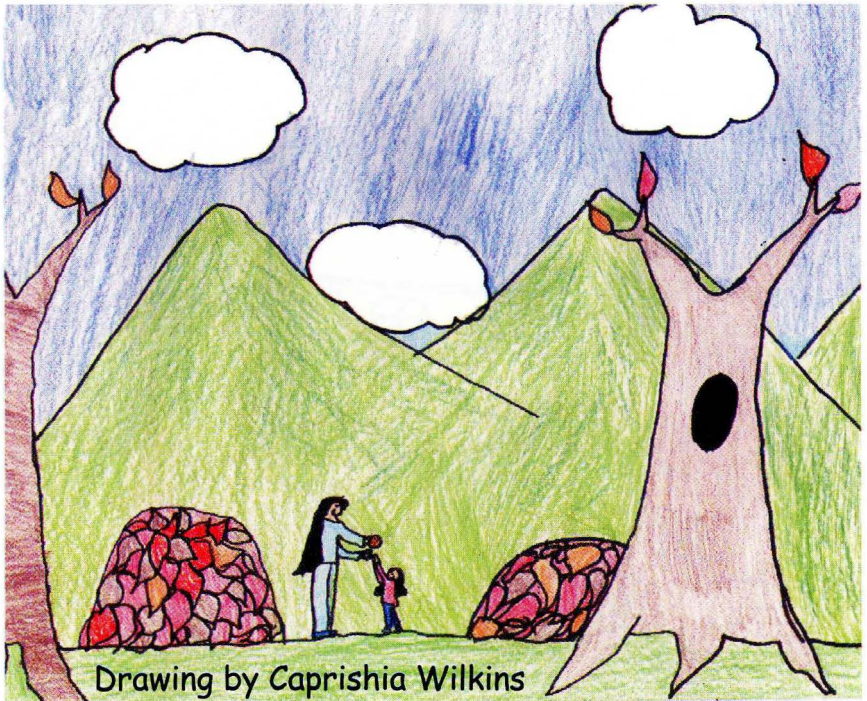
Drawing by Raquel Llamas

A few hours later a baby girl, Ethel Agnes Lundy, was born.



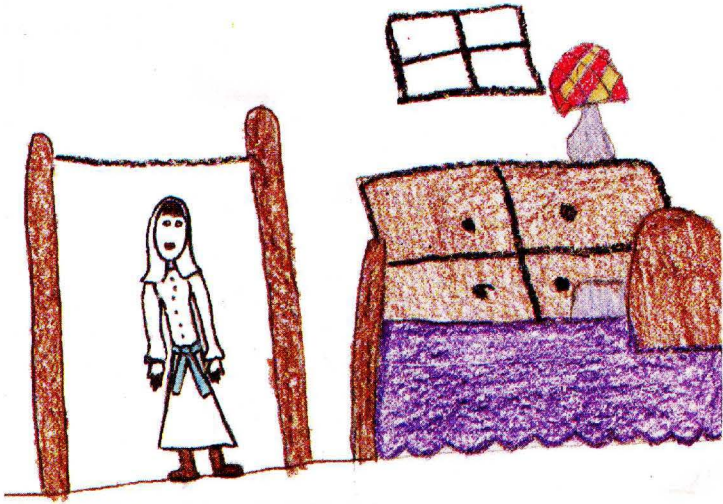
Drawing by Cassie Labbe

As a young girl, Ethel loved to play with the neighborhood children. She was especially fond of the younger ones.



She would make sure that they played safely and away from traffic. Oftentimes, Ethel would share her cookies or candy with them.

Not surprising, when Ethel grew to become a young lady, she chose to attend nursing school. Proudly she wore her new white nurse's cap which matched her starched white uniform.



Drawing by Mallorie Lamb

But the glow of pride could not hide a secret desire tugging at her inner self. She didn't seem as fulfilled as she had hoped.

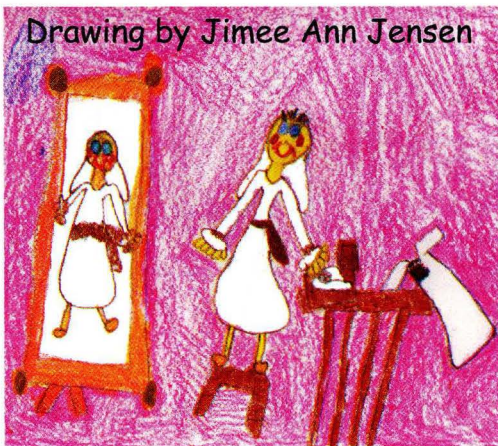
Although nursing was her first love, she wanted to become a very special nurse. For many days she toyed with this thought, and one day made a decision.



Drawing by Alexis Gillett

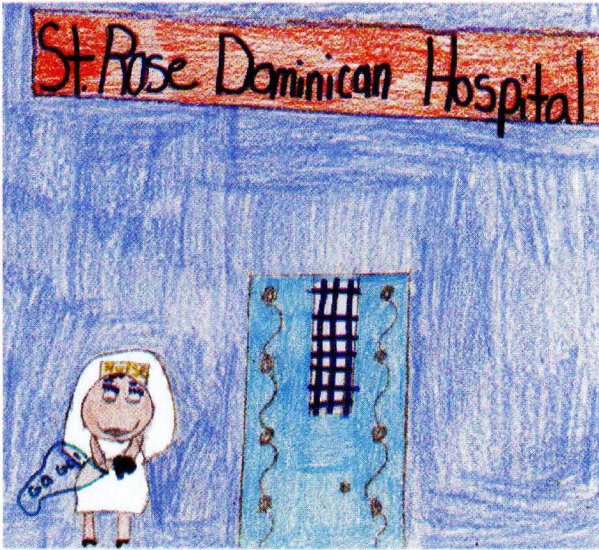
She chose to join a religious order and become a nun.

In those days, when a young woman became a nun, she also assumed a new name and wore an outfit called a "habit". Ethel was now known as Sister Marie Daniel. Her white nurse uniform was replaced with a long white robe tied loosely at the waist. Sister carefully packed her white cap in a box. She then turned to the mirror while placing on her head a new headpiece with a long white cotton veil. It covered her hair, and flowed gently around her shoulders and back.



After tugging at her stockings and lacing her shoes, she stole one last glance. She smiled with approval. It was apparent that she liked herself in white from head to toe.

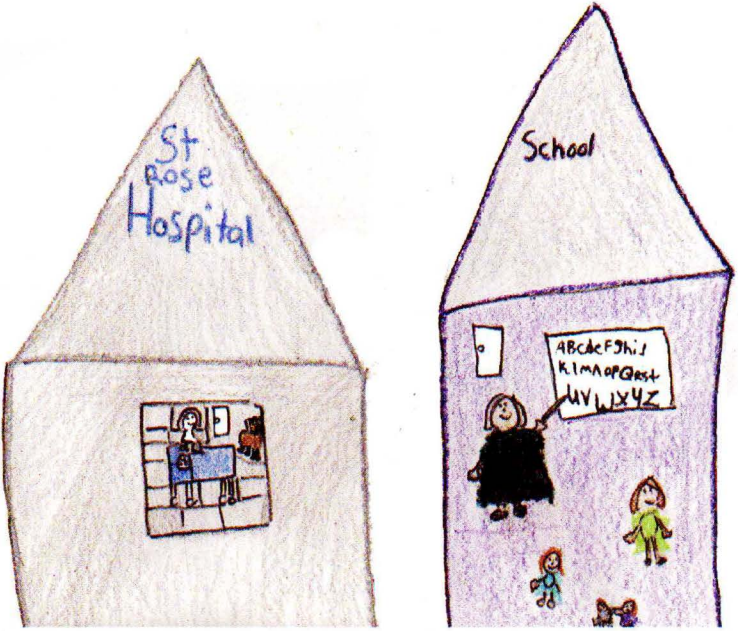
Sister Marie Daniel was barely five feet tall,
and well-rounded at that.



Drawing by Joseph Spero

Moving like a whirlwind, she went about her
busy day following orders, giving orders,
checking charts, and soothing patients.

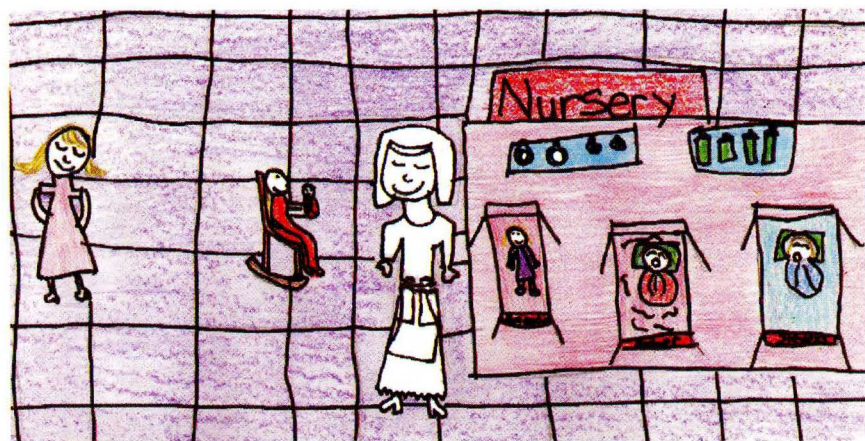
She worked in many hospitals, and also taught children in many schools.



Drawing by Taryn Lynn Thurmoad

At last it was time to find a place to call home. The nursery at St. Rose Dominican Hospital became that place.

In 1947, Sister added a long white apron with very deep pockets to her wardrobe, and began to work with parents and newborns.



Drawing by Danielle Avery

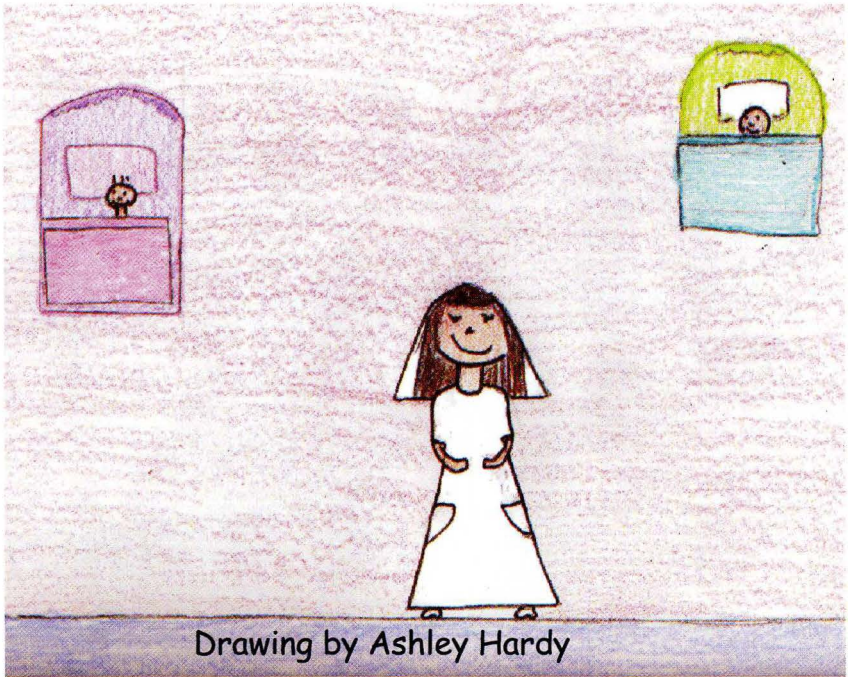
This sweet, ambitious woman had a unique quality of understanding the language of babies. She rocked, she sang, she cuddled, and to each and every new baby she gave a piece of her own heart.

Drawing by Nicole Fragoso



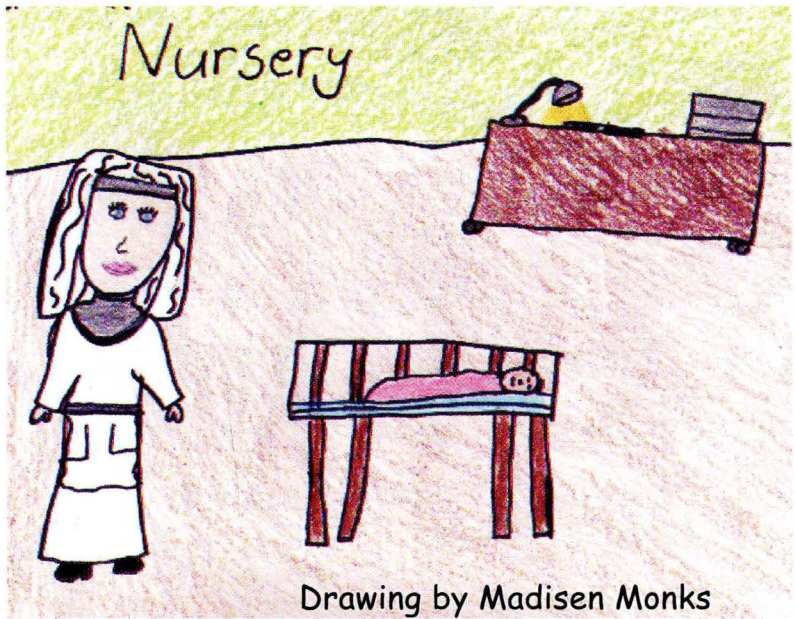
She saw all the new faces and heard all the new wailing voices. Her ears perked at the sound of a whimper, and her toes tapped to melodic nursery rhymes.

From a distance, Sister could identify which baby was calling. She made certain no little one was unattended.



Always at their side, she cradled infants peacefully in the warmth of her hugging arms.

New moms and dads loved her. Never did she go home when a child was sick. Sleepless nights were transformed into pleasant waking hours.



She was a wonder! She was even more than that! Sister Marie Daniel was a special angel in white.

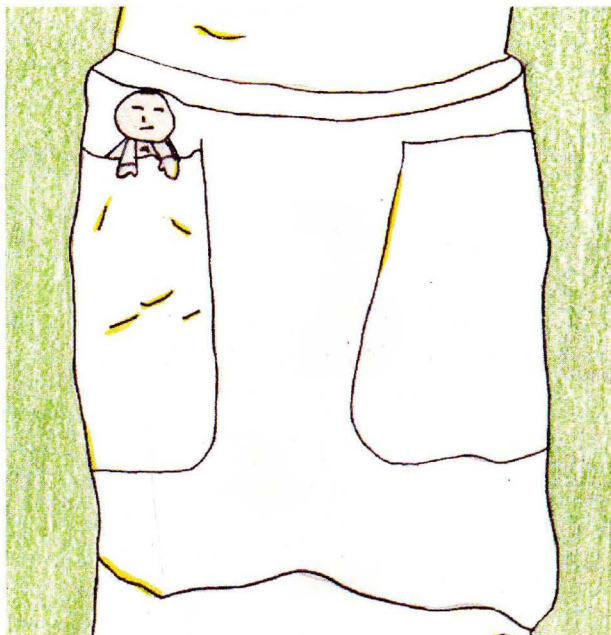
One precious little girl came to be cared for by Sister. Her name was Michelle. She was a premature baby. That means she arrived into this world earlier than expected. Michelle weighed only twenty-two ounces, and was not ready for life outside her mother's womb.



Drawing by Kelli Empey

Because the hospital was young and not yet fully equipped, there were no incubators to protect the little ones. So, with great attention and care, Sister watched over Michelle day and night. Many hours were spent rocking her back and forth, back and forth.

With her usual concern, Sister came up with an idea. Her attentiveness caused her to remember the two deep pockets, one on either side of her apron.



Drawing by Chanelle Southwick

She designed an incubator. Using two soft blankets to wrap Michelle, she carefully positioned the infant into one pocket. With a careful eye, Sister continued to go about her other hospital duties.

Soon Michelle grew too large for the pocket, and weighed enough to be discharged from the hospital to join her family.



Drawing by Sarah Miller

Not only the family, but many others along the way never forgot this exceptional "baby rocker" who gave such tender love.

Although Sister Marie Daniel is no longer with us, many former patients, friends, nurses, moms, and pops have their favorite story to tell about this big-hearted angel of mercy.



Drawing by Aubri Davis

Always dressed in white, including her deep-pocketed apron, she will remain special to them--a special nurse, a special nun, and a special person.



Sister Marie Daniel
1907-1995

Biography

Sister Marie Daniel was among the first Adrian Dominican nuns chosen in 1947 to open what was formerly known as St. Rose de Lima Hospital in Henderson, Nevada.

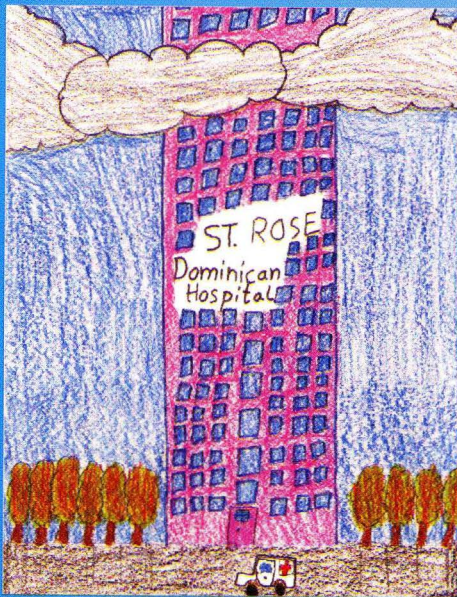
Born in 1907 as Ethel Agnes Lundy, she was one of seven children belonging to an Irish family living in Chicago, Illinois. After attending high school, she was educated as a nurse. Later, she entered the Adrian Dominican Congregation and took the name of Sister Marie Daniel.

As a nun, she began teaching primary grades in various schools throughout the United States. Eventually, she returned to graduate school and also finished formal nurse's training. Her many assignments as a teacher/nurse prepared her for the role she was to play the duration of her life. She arrived at St. Rose Dominican Hospital and became Director of Nurses in charge of OB.

Two assignments interrupted her duties at St. Rose, but after a six-year absence, she returned and worked for twelve more years in the nursery.

She retired from nursing in 1976, and continued working as a volunteer at the hospital. Health reasons caused her to retire in 1994. It was then that the loving care she extended to so many lives be returned to her. She was moved to Maria Health Care Center in Adrian, Michigan, where she died on November 17, 1995.

Sister Marie Daniel had a particular interest in infants and children, and is best remembered for the love and care given to so many born at St. Rose Hospital. In her memory, the Outpatient Tower housing the Emergency Room was dedicated on May 14, 1984.



Henderson, Nevada
March 1999