

Sister Adelmara Zeller, SSND

Taken from "Enlarge The Space Of Your tent" by" S. Victoria Wiethaler, SSND

Sister Adelmara relates, "Before my birth, my mother and dad attended a carnival which was held in our little village. My mother gave in to the urge to dance. Upon arriving home she became worried and had immediate recourse to St. Anthony promising him, that if her child would be born uninjured she would name it in honor of St. Anthony. On September 1, 1904, I was born and in Baptism named Antonia."

Sister liked to tell the story how her desire to become a sister was awakened in her. "On my name day, June 13, my father asked me what I would like for a gift. My mischievous brother heard the question and answered, 'She wants to become a sister.' I had never thought of religious life and gave my brother a merry chase. But from that time on I began to think about the convent and here I am."

Sister pursued studies to become a needlework instructor. During the Hitler regime Sister Adelmara chose a foreign country rather than return to her home. She tells about the experience, "A new world stood before me July 13, 1937. My destination was Mankato. It had always been the wish of Mother Superior Mary Isidore to open a tapestry department in the Mankato motherhouse. Poor me had been appointed for this undertaking. God has blessed my efforts and I not only like my work, but love it." Sister Mary Agnes Oberhofer worked with her. Beautiful vestments and altar linens were produced and whenever mission sisters brought in vestments that needed mending, they were met with kindness and willingness. ■