

Short Biography of Amy Sibley

Earliest Days

Amy Sibley was born Feb. 15th, 1992 in Council Grove, Kansas to Chris and Sharmon Sibley. They are ordinary parents, who speak of Jesus often at home and teach their children that God is to be first in the life of the family. She entered this world eight weeks pre-mature. Because of her early birth, she was airlifted from the hospital in Council Grove to a hospital in Topeka, KS, where she received an emergency baptism for fear she may die. When it seemed Amy was going to die, her father asked Jesus if she could grow up so that he could get to know her, to have coffee with her and to talk with her. God answered his prayers.

Childhood

As a quiet and shy person, when Amy was about 5 or 6 years old, she struggled with obedience. Her mother would ask her to put her shoes away when she took them off, so Amy would know where to find them. But, Amy didn't do as her mother said. Whenever she needed her shoes, Amy couldn't find them. Day after day, the struggle continued for Amy to find her shoes. Finally, one day, her parents took drastic measures with her and the other children to teach the importance of doing what they said. The other children would fail to put their toys away as they were told and so all the toys that were not put away were picked up and thrown away by the parents. This taught the children, including Amy, the valuable lesson of obedience. Her parents both agree, since that moment, Amy was always and completely obedient. With the exception of her loving obedience to her parents, they said "*Amy seemed like the rest of the kids. She didn't appear different.*" After later reflecting, the parents realized that there was something different about their daughter. Her parents said, "*She never really had hobbies and nothing seemed to really interest her. Unlike other children her age, she never seemed content with the things of this world, as though she knew there was something greater to be had in heaven.*"

After Amy's first grade year, Amy recalls writing God letters. She said, "*That summer, after school was out, Jeri (her sister) and I decided that we would make God a letter. It was a warm day and we sat on the cow pen in the feed bunk carrying our paper and markers. This had been Jeri's idea and I just followed along. I remember writing, "I love you God" in my card. It was a little windy that day and we both let our cards float through the air. I actually thought that they would float to heaven. I'm not sure why I remember this story, but I'm glad I did (It's cute).*"

Amy recalled the great importance of her second grade year. She said, "*This year was important to me because I was going to say my First Confession and Communion. I could hardly wait for these days to come. When I went to say my very First Confession to Fr. Boor, I was nervous. He had to help me along; however, I knew my Act of Contrition and said it all by myself. Our First Communion came later that year. We worked hard getting ready for this day and when it finally came it was exciting. It was on Sunday, May 7th, 2000 and 8 of us received this sacrament. That day each of us were given rosaries that some nuns had made for us. I was pretty proud that day.*"

Amy loved to receive Jesus in Holy Communion and despite her very ill health, would come to Mass to sit in the cry room, where Communion would be taken to her during Mass. When no longer able to come to Mass on the weekend, she longed to receive Jesus at home.

Amy loved to Laugh

She loved to go to her grandmother Kay Sibley's house to draw pictures. It's down a dirt road, a quarter of a mile from her home. She loved her grandmother and said her grandmother often times made her laugh. The following example is when Amy was in the hospital. Amy said, "*Coming back from the cafeteria with Jean and Bob, Grandma was getting some foam just outside the door, that is used to sterilize (Disinfect), I don't know what she did, but she sprayed it everywhere and got all it all over her, Jean and Bob. Later that night she wanted Jean to bring her pop. Grandma must have shook it because it exploded all over the floor.*"

Importance of Family

Amy was happy at home and especially enjoyed family "get togethers" and was always concerned about wanting everyone to be there, when the family got together. Her parents said she was the peacemaker of their children and got along with all of her brothers and sisters. She was always more concerned for the needs of others than her own. For example, after she would come down with cancer, she was able to receive a "Make A Wish" choice and said she wanted a camper for her family, rather than going to Montana, which she had wanted. "*This way*", she said, "*we can enjoy the gift together*". And she wanted to have a large family. She had said she wanted to have 9 children and she loved babies. This being said, Amy confided in her pastor, that she had thought about becoming a religious sister.

6th Grade through High School

Amy went to kindergarten through fourth grade at the public school in Wilsey, Kansas. When she entered 6th grade she met several girls who would become her best friends. Amy said, *"It wasn't until that 6th grade that I met Emily Frese and Jana Miller. Two of the best people I have ever met. Emily and Jana have been best friends ever since they were born and I am extremely fortunate that we were all put in the same class that year. They've been with me through good times and bad & I know I can rely on them for anything."*

In High School, because she enjoyed running, she wanted to go out for track. Looking for the best of Amy's needs, her parents decided it would be best for her not to go out for track. The parents wanted to maintain a simple life for their children and so wanted their children to stay at home and enjoy daily family life on the farm and also to keep God as the center of their life. While in school, Amy always received good grades and even continued to do her homework and kept up her grades despite her hospital stays. She even merited the special National Honor Society Award just weeks before her death.

Lover of Nature

Amy loved mountains, nature and animals and especially the God, who created them. She at one time wanted to be a park ranger. She had multiple kinds of pets including a raccoon, opossum and rabbits. When she would later end up in the hospital, her room was filled with taped up photos of animals and nature.

Treated by Parents

Perhaps because Amy nearly died as an infant, and God answered his prayer, her father said he had a special likeness for Amy and felt that God wanted to keep her holy. He went out of his way to be sure she would grow in holiness. Her mother admits that she was harder on Amy than her other children.

Cancer

Throughout Amy's young life she had good health and rarely caught a cold. However, during the fall of 2007, she began to have symptoms that something was wrong. On Oct. 8th, the first tumor was found. On Oct. 9th the doctors in Kansas City indicated she had a rare cancer called Adrenal Carcinoma. On Oct. 22nd, the doctors attempted, but were unable to remove the tumor. She underwent Chemo to shrink the tumor, which was removed on March 14th, 2008. They gave her more chemo, but the chemo almost killed her, so the parents stopped it. In July, a scan indicated she was tumor free. Then in Oct. of 2008, another tumor was found. It was the size of a grapefruit. On Nov. 11th, the doctors successfully removed the tumor. In the early part of the year, Amy began to experience symptoms again and so on Feb. 20th, 2009, seven tumors were discovered. The doctors said she could go through a new experimental chemo and if she lived, she would be the first to survive. Her parents chose not to put Amy through the chemo. When Amy was told she was terminal, with a half grin, she took her \$20 bill out of her pocket and gave it to her father and said, *"I won't be needing this anymore."* Her parents said Amy never once cried after she discovered she was going to die. Rather than her parents needing to encourage her on her journey to heaven, Amy would ask her parents, *"Why do you worry about something you can't change."* The parents responded saying, *"We can't help it you're our child."* Amy also let it be known that she was excited to go to heaven before the other members of her family.

Amy was in and out of the hospital and especially during Lent. During Lent, her father would pray the Stations of the Cross with her and she greatly enjoyed doing so. On Good Friday, she entered the hospital and everyone thought she would die that day because her intense agony. It was as though Amy suffered with Jesus on the Cross. On Easter Sunday, Amy's symptoms had greatly decreased and she was able to eat and walk.

She entered the hospital for the last time on April 20th. Room 33 became the room she would go to be with Jesus. On May 5th, she asked her father to begin marking the days off of the calendar, as though she knew the exact date of her death. Amy had prayed the 15 prayers of St. Bridget and believed in the promises associated with them.

While in the hospital, Amy's condition was dreadful. Because of her inability to eat, she rapidly grew thin and developed a large opened wound on her right side. The tumor had busted through her side and was visible. A stench came from the wound as well as from the wound in back. Even her breath smelt like decaying flesh and within a week before her death, her entire body swelled from the infection. During all this time, Amy rarely wanted her pain medication (morphine). She said she wanted to suffer for Jesus. It is believed that Amy—never—not in even once complained about her pain.

Struggle with Evil

While in the hospital Amy had a spiritual battle. She wanted the windows and doors to be blessed with holy water and said sometimes Satan came to her room. She would often pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy during these trials. Perhaps, the battle of conquering her self-will had to be won. Though she had beautiful blonde hair, Amy used to wear a stocking cap at all times. And there came a time when she decided she didn't want any more visitors to her room. But the day came when Amy took off her cap for good and said any visitors who wanted to come could come and see her. And from that day on, she said

never had a problem with evil spirits coming to her room. It seems as though she fully conquered her self—and at the age of 17.

Last Days

The closer she came to death, the more strange experiences occurred. A friend aware that she appeared to be seeing something said, "Do you see an angel?" And Amy said, "*No, I see all these people with hands out calling my name.*" She said to her mother, "*Mom, who are all these people?*"

On one occasion the pastor came to bless her with a relic of Mother Teresa, but had left it in the car. As the pastor went to retrieve the relic, he prayed that Amy would at least receive some consolation from Mother Teresa. And before he returned, Amy turned and looked at her father and said, "*Who touched me?*" But no one was there and it is believed to have been Mother Teresa, who patted Amy on the arm. On Monday, May 18th, she received her last Holy Communion and was anointed for the last time.

During her time in the hospital, she loved to pray the Rosary with whoever asked her. She daily prayed the rosary with her father. And the night before she died, she told him, that it would be the last rosary they would pray together (alone). She told her father, "*Tomorrow all my pain and suffering will be gone.*" She later then told her father, "*Tomorrow I will die.*"

Later that Tuesday evening, the family gathered to pray at her bedside and prayed the customary family rosary which they would pray every week.

On Wed. she began to have crucial pain and her breathing became labored. Her mother had previously indicated to Amy that she didn't think she could stand watching her Amy die. And as though Amy knew the exact moment of her death, she told her mother to go home. But her mother refused, saying she wanted to stay. But Amy was insistent, and a few minutes after her mother, Sharmon, left the room, Amy gave her soul to Jesus. Amy died at 6:02 pm on May 20th. It was the 15th day, she had asked her father to mark off the calendar.

After Death Happenings

It's interesting to note that prior to her death, Jim Anderson told Amy that when she gets to heaven, to help us on earth to find the killer of Carol Mould, the sister of Linda Stackly (wife of Jim Anderson). Linda had been married to Ernie Sigle (Amy's uncle), whom died years previously. Within one hour after Amy's death a man confessed to an EMT that he killed Carol Mould. The case had been cold for years.

It's interesting to note that she died on the feast of St. Bernadine of Sienna, one of the greatest promoters of the Holy Name of Jesus. Amy had an aversion to hearing the name of Jesus said in vain. Her pastor asked her what caused her the most pain. He was referring to her physical pain. But Amy said, "*What causes me the most pain is when my uncles take the name of Jesus in vain.*"

An Example for Us Today

Her pastor asked her, "If you could tell the whole world something, what would you tell them?" Amy said, "*To know Christ, to love Christ and to serve Christ.*" In a day and age people run from suffering and see no value in it and a day and age where God is no longer the center of family life, Amy's life boldly bears witness to the power and love of Jesus in the life of a simple young girl, who lived an extra-ordinary life of a farm girl from Kansas.