

INTRODUCTION  
BORN UNDER A SPECIAL STAR

What I want my children and my grandchildren to know is that I've been very fortunate all my life. I always felt I was born under a special star. When I compare myself to my two sisters, there's no question that there was a special star in the sky when I was born, because my older sister worked hard on the farm, got married when she was seventeen and became a mother immediately. She had Charles when she was eighteen and then she couldn't have any other children. She had a tumor and miscarriages and many illnesses, many illnesses, and also broke a lot of bones. She had a rough time, her girlhood was not happy like mine, she lived on farms and was a workhorse, doing everything that had to be done.

My younger sister was born legally blind. She was born on the Fourth of July and my mother always felt that the doctor had someplace to go and used instruments to take the baby, and that Bernice was injured that way. However, many years later, when my sister was in her forties, we went to Italy and found that her condition was in that family, so we don't know. She was told she couldn't go to college, but she graduated from the University of Minnesota with honors. She did very well, but she had a much harder life than I had. She didn't have the fun that I had. I always felt that I had a special place, I was born in the middle of four boys. That was a blessing, a great blessing. I loved going to school and I went to college very young, and, as a girl, I had Father Ross in my life and I felt particularly blessed by having this priest who I could talk to about all kinds of things.