



Sister Alexia LaPorte, OP

Born to earthly life: May 27, 1913
Religious profession: August 4, 1946
Entered eternal life: October 26, 2013

"God loves a cheerful giver; so you will always have more than enough for doing good."

2 Cor. 9:7-8

IN COUNTLESS WAYS, SISTER ALEXIA LAPORTE TOUCHED THE LIVES OF FAMILY, friends, sisters and associates through her cheerful ways of "doing good." Gracious ... hospitable ... prayerful ... cheerful. These words described her repeatedly in the stories shared at S. Alexia's Remembering Service and afterwards.

"For many of us young sisters assigned to work in the kitchen at Our Lady of the Oaks during the summer, she saved our bacon!" chuckled S. Anne Morehouse, recalling how kind S. Alexia was in supervising those inexperienced in the culinary arts.

It was the encouragement of a sister at Assumption Grotto School in her home town of Detroit that influenced Mabel LaPorte in joining the Racine Dominicans. After working for several years, Mabel visited her former teacher who asked, "What are you doing about your vocation?"

Mabel had left school early to help her family of seven survive. It was during the Great Depression of the 1920s-30s, and her father could not find work for over five years. Working in a laundry, Mabel supported her family for four years. Her sister Marie then joined her in the laundry. Mabel's wage put food on the family table, and Marie's put coal in the stove.

Mabel was 30 years old when she joined the Dominican community, and at her reception in 1944, she was given the name Sister Alexia, which she kept the remainder of her life. She loved being a sister and enjoyed her missions, especially the many years she served at Our Lady of the Oaks in Pewaukee, WI.

Ss. Mary Ann Weyker and Judene Walsh remember during their years at St. Mary's School, Pewaukee, S. Alexia often encouraged them to come for Sunday dinner. "She was always gracious and hospitable," noted S. Mary Ann. "So welcoming," S. Judene added. "The perfect example of the 'faithful servant'."

Before going to Our Lady of the Oaks for the second time, when she stayed for 24 years, S. Alexia was assigned to the Dominican House of Studies in River Forest, IL, for five years. Though she didn't want to go, she grew to enjoy the seminarians, and they loved her. During the summers, she and her good friend S. Mary Bede cooked for about 200 people, and during the school year for about 60. One of the graduates told them, "If it weren't for you sisters – your care and your humor – I would never have been ordained."

Since 2005, S. Alexia lived at Kenosha Estates where "she brought a peaceful joy to other residents," said Associate Marilyn Lauer who facilitates Communion services there. In so many different ways through her 100 years on Earth, S. Alexia never stopped being the "cheerful giver."