



## Sister Dolores Chartrand, OP

Born to earthly life: October 2, 1928  
Religious profession: August 15, 1948  
Entered eternal life: May 24, 2016

*"God's word is trustworthy and true ...  
Sister knew that and she based her life on it."*

*Tarri Blick, Sister Dolores' niece*

**T**ARRI'S PRONOUNCEMENT AND THE GREAT AFFECTION with which she spoke of her aunt attest to Sister Dolores Chartrand's depth of faith and genuine care for people. "When you were with Dolores, you had her full attention," noted S. Carol Wester. "I think she was that way with everyone she met." A sentiment shared consistently by family and community members at S. Dolores' remembering service.

Dolores Helen, born on October 2, 1928, in Richmond, MI, was the second of Alfred and Anna Chartrand's five children. She was raised on a large poultry farm near Capac and attended a one-room school house. She longed to attend a Catholic school, and her wish was fulfilled in tenth grade when her family moved to Center Line and she went to St. Clement's High School.

At age 16, Dolores traveled to Racine and became a Dominican aspirant. The following year she was received into the community and given the name Sister Gervase (20 years later returning to her baptismal name). She became an accomplished homemaker, cook and baker, serving missions in New Mexico, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan. "I always liked to give whatever food I prepared a special touch of seasonings and a final touch of parsley or other edible decoration that meets the eye and makes it attractive," she said. She took pride in preparing well-balanced, attractive meals for the community she served and for her family. Attentive to stewardship, she invented tasty ways to prepare leftovers and use all food before it could spoil.

S. Rita Lui, a recipient of S. Dolores' creativity while living with her in Detroit, likened her culinary endeavors to art. "She prepared food with such class. Her meals really were works of art," she said. In recent years, S. Dolores pursued another artistic outlet by taking up painting in the Siena art room. "She loved painting and grew in confidence the more she did it," S. Barbara Kukla observed. "She was proud of her paintings and always expressed gratitude for suggestions anyone offered."

Aside from S. Dolores' creative abilities, she was cherished for simply being who she was. "She made everyone feel welcome and was a friend to so many people," Siena staff member Marian Fay reflected.

"She was one of the kindest people I ever knew," Pat Schutts said, expressing gratitude for S. Dolores' strong support of Siena Retreat Center through prayer and active interest in its programs. Pat and many others marveled at S. Dolores' positive attitude no matter what was transpiring around her. She was never heard to make a negative comment about anyone.

S. Dolores' devotion to her family was clearly reciprocal, as reflections were read at her remembering service from those unable to attend: "Sister was always interested in what other people were doing... She was the perfect example of love," wrote her niece, Shari. "Having S. Dolores as my sweet aunt was like having two moms... When I was little, I was in awe of her. I thought she was an angel sent by God," wrote her niece, Sue.

As S. Maryann McMahon said in welcoming guests to S. Dolores' funeral, "S. Dolores was joyful, congenial and prayerful. She was always interested in others and was happiest when she could love and care for others. As we celebrate her new life today, let us remember how she faithfully lived her Baptismal commitment to love and serve others."