

Sister Bernadine (Bee) Schellinger, OP



Born to Earthly Life on December 25, 1933

First Profession on August 15, 1953

Entered Eternal Life on December 11, 2025

CAROLINA (CAROL) ROSEMARY SCHELLINGER was born on December 25, 1933 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin to Otto and Theresa Schellinger. She was the youngest of the five Schellinger children and their house was full of love and faith. As the youngest in her family, Carol was adored by her older siblings and earned many a chuckle from family members during her early years. She was a caring child who loved to help with whatever was needed, which would continue throughout her life.

She felt a call to religious life early and had an older sister who joined the Racine Dominicans, so after spending time with the Community she knew it was where she belonged. She professed her first vows in 1953 and final vows in 1959. She took the name S. Bernadine and over the years came to be affectionately known as S. Bee.

She received a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Dominican College and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She began her ministry in teaching, where she would spend more than 30 years educating students. She taught at schools throughout Wisconsin and Michigan, including St. Rita, Holy Trinity and St. Catherine's High School in Racine, St. Mary in Kenosha and St. John in Little Chute.

S. Bee was a dedicated teacher. Her energy and talents were a perfect fit for her young students, and she was found to be a very resilient and versatile teacher. She loved watching students learn and grow and cherished many memories of special moments in her classroom.

She was also a fierce advocate for strengthening schools by being a part of organizations like the Wisconsin School Evaluation Consortium. She said, "I feel that where efforts of the personnel are continually directed toward educationally sound practices, and where the financial pressures are minimal, in those schools our energies and dedication to children may well be channeled in the best possible way." She understood the importance of good schools that develop a love of learning in students and worked to make schools better for all.

S. Bee deeply cared about people, so it was no surprise that her next phase of ministry was dedicated to the care of our Sisters. She served the Racine Dominican Community in the Sisters' Infirmary and was also the Coordinator of Supportive Services for the Sisters. She helped to coordinate care, connect Sisters with the services they needed and was a compassionate listener and companion. S. Bee also took great care in helping the Sisters keep in touch with their families and friends throughout the year, and especially at the holidays. She also served as a volunteer for the Senior Companion Program and worked tirelessly on issues of racism and injustice throughout her life.

S. Bee was a caring soul who devoted her life to education and serving others. Her life is a lesson that we can all learn from. We thank you God for the gift of S. Bee.

