

Sister Germaine Hietpas, OP



Born to Earthly Life on November 9, 1937
First Profession on August 15, 1961
Entered Eternal Life on December 26, 2025

GERMAINE AGNES HIETPAS was born on November 9, 1937 in Van den Broeck, Wisconsin to Cornelius and Anna Hietpas. She was one of the 11 Hietpas children and their home on the family farm was a bustle of activity, joy and prayer.

She attended St. John's School in Little Chute, where she had many Racine Dominicans as teachers. She felt a call to religious life and after attending a reception of novices in Racine, she knew that the Racine Dominican Community would be her home. She made her first profession in 1961 and final profession in 1967, taking the name S. Jordana. She would later return to her baptismal name of S. Germaine.

S. Germaine received a Bachelor's Degree from Dominican College in Racine, Wisconsin and a Master's Degree in Theology from the Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. She also received a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) certificate from St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee and a Master's of Professional Studies from Loyola University in Chicago.

She began her ministry as a teacher. She taught for 21 years at schools in Wisconsin, including St. Rose and St. Joseph in Racine. Being a teacher brought so much joy to her life. She often talked about how her students taught her so much – about faith, about different cultures and about how to minister differently based on the person and their experience. She shared the gifts of faith and prayer with her students, which helped her to grow in her own faith. S. Germaine was a caring and dedicated teacher who took care of her students in so many ways.

That spirit of care and concern would lead S. Germaine into her next phase of ministry, as a chaplain, spiritual minister and in care of the Sisters. After earning her Clinical Pastoral Education certification, she worked as a hospital chaplain for nearly 20 years, being a faith-filled presence to patients and their families during difficult times. She served as the Coordinator of Life Transitions and Co-Coordinator of Siena Center, assisting Sisters with their care, coordinating support and walking with them during times of change. She created a program to do this based on a wellness model, where the care and services provided focused on the mind, body and spirit of each Sister. The idea of caring for the total person still guides our care today. Her gentle spirit and kind heart was always evident in the care she provided.

We are grateful for the life of service that S. Germaine gave to all she met. As she so wisely said, “go forward and make ripples from love, compassion, courage and peace.” Thank you God for the life of S. Germaine.

