

Sister Christine Blommel, OP



Born to Earthly Life on January 11, 1932

First Profession on August 15, 1953

Entered Eternal Life on November 15, 2023

CHRISTINE BLOMMEL was born January 11, 1932 in Racine, Wisconsin to Herman and Dorothy Blommel. She grew up in a large family of nine and was close to her siblings. Chris described herself as a mischievous child, but her school experiences at Holy Name and St. Catherine's seemingly found her at her best behavior and inspired by the Racine Dominicans who taught her. She felt the call to religious life and was given the religious name Sister Dorothea.

Sister Christine dedicated herself to a life of service to others. That service took many forms – food service, housekeeping, maintenance, healthcare assistant and occupational therapy assistant. She had a servant's heart and went where she was needed and called.

She began her ministry at St. John Parish in Hubbardston, Michigan. She then served at St. Catherine Convent and Siena Center in Racine, and Our Lady of the Oaks in Pewaukee. She then moved to serve at the Dominican House of Studies in River Forest, Illinois and Osmond General Hospital in Osmond, Nebraska.

After moving home to Racine, S. Christine continued to assist with food service, housekeeping, sewing and other tasks, all while working as an Occupational Therapy Assistant at Siena. She was also a longtime Senior Companion Volunteer. When asked about what inspired her to serve others so freely and generously, she said, "I feel the Spirit working within me. I feel that I am walking with Christ to minister to his people."

S. Christine was very creative and her knitting was an incredible gift she shared with so many. There are stories of her knitting hundreds of winter hats for those less fortunate, always behind the scenes and without fanfare. She knitted beautiful sweaters for her classmates, who wore them with pride and treasured them. S. Christine was the resident popcorn maker at Siena and was known for her world famous caramel corn, treats that the Sisters and Associates always looked forward to sharing. S. Christine always did what brought comfort to others – a homemade treat, a handmade gift, but most of all the gift of her companionship and love.

She was known for her humor and joy, and for doing something small that inspired someone else to also serve in kindness. It is easy to imagine just how many lives were changed by her humble, simple acts of service to others.

S. Christine knew well the power of an act of service to change the lives of others and start a ripple effect of kindness in the world. We thank God for the gift of her witness to service and her faith, and thank S. Christine for the kindness that she inspired us all to show to others.

