

# Sister Mary Ann Pohl, OP



Born to Earthly Life on August 28, 1933

First Profession on August 15, 1952

Entered Eternal Life on June 12, 2024

**M**ARY ANN POHL was born on August 28, 1933 in Fowler, Michigan to her parents, Louis and Catherine. She was one of nine children, and together they ran their family farm in Fowler. There was a warm, loving atmosphere at home - one of praying, playing and working. Faith was at the center of their home.

Many of the Racine Dominican Sisters taught in the Fowler schools and two of Mary Ann's sisters, Dorothy and Bernadine, joined the Racine Dominicans before her. Another sister, Adeline became a Sister of Mercy and her brother Leon became a priest. Mary Ann felt her own call and joined the Racine Dominicans in 1950. She made her first profession on August 15, 1952 and final vows on August 15, 1958, taking the name S. Bernard Ann.

S. Mary Ann's first ministry was centered around her love of cooking. She worked in food service at Villa St. Anna and St. Catherine's Convent in Racine, and St. Clement Convent in Center Line, Michigan. She was an excellent cook and enjoyed the camaraderie of the kitchen. She took classes and did workshops to keep her skills sharp and was always a willing teacher to anyone who wanted to learn more in the kitchen.

It was during S. Mary Ann's time serving others in a healthcare setting that she began to feel called to being a nurse. She graduated from Gateway Technical Institute in Kenosha with an LPN degree and went right to work at St. Mary's Hospital in Racine. She worked in the surgical, orthopedic and neurology areas for 27 years and loved being able to help people. S. Mary Ann formed relationships with her patients and often would check up on them at home after their stay, offering kindness, compassion and a prayer to those who needed it. Her love of people and joy in service, always with a smile, was evident throughout her years in ministry.

S. Mary Ann was a calming influence and gentle caregiver to many people. She said, "I attempt to live each day as a Dominican woman devoted to the ultimate goal in healthcare of restoring wholeness. People who come in with broken bones, often come with broken dreams, broken lives and broken hearts. As I carry out my nursing duties, I am privileged to hear their life stories and give a caring sensitive response." S. Mary Ann was able to connect with the whole person and ease their pain and stress by listening attentively and many times praying with them. Prayer was an important part of her own life, and she shared that faith in her work.

After her retirement from St. Mary's, she became the Assistant Health Care Coordinator at Siena. Many of her fellow Sisters benefitted from her experience, knowledge and compassion. Her presence made medical visits more tolerable and she helped them understand what was happening and why. She also volunteered in the Senior Companion Program doing home visits and eventually telephone calls.

S. Mary Ann was a loving, caring person, sharing her gifts with those she met. Her commitment to being of service to God's people through prayer and ministry is an inspiration to all of us.

