

Sister Rita Lui, OP



Born to Earthly Life on December 22, 1936

First Profession on August 15, 1957

Entered Eternal Life on February 4, 2026

RITA MARY LUI was born on December 22, 1936 to Aloys and Anna Lui. She had an older brother and younger sister and they grew up on the family farm in Racine. Her childhood was filled with faith, strong values and a love of learning. She attended St. Rita School and St. Catherine High School and was taught by many Racine Dominican Sisters. When Rita felt the call to religious life, she knew that the Racine Dominicans would be her home. Rita made her first profession on August 15, 1957 and her final profession on August 15, 1963. She took the religious name S. Alice Ann before returning to her baptismal name of S. Rita.

S. Rita received a Bachelor's Degree from Dominican College in Racine and a Master's Degree in Sacred Studies from St. John's in Collegeville, Minnesota. She always wanted to be a teacher, and served as an elementary and high school educator in Wisconsin and Michigan for more than 12 years. S. Rita truly loved to share lessons and faith with her students and was a beloved teacher who cherished her days in the classroom. That call to be a teacher was always in her heart, so her next years of ministry were dedicated to the teaching of our faith. She was a Director of Religious Education, a Director of Adult Formation, she was a Development Director and a Formation Director in Wisconsin and Michigan.

S. Rita had strong leadership skills, which she used to support her Community as the Director of the Aspirants and two terms as Vice President. While sharing her gifts and talents with the Community, she was always grateful for the support from her Racine Dominican Sisters as her path unfolded. "I've been given the opportunity and challenge to develop skills and talents I would never otherwise have believed I had. The support and affirmation of the Community has been a treasure," said S. Rita.

She then took on a role that would be life changing for her, and for the many people whose lives she touched. S. Rita was Director of the Siena Retreat Center for 20 years. She worked tirelessly to provide programs and retreats that addressed faith, issues of justice and the wellbeing of the whole person. As she said, "we receive people as they are, without judgement so they can grow, deepen their understanding of faith and life, and become whole and at peace." S. Rita was instrumental in the creation of the Spiritual Guidance Program, which offers preparation for the ministry of spiritual direction and companionship, which still exists today.

S. Rita was known for her compassion. She believed God's presence was found in kindness, in listening, and in standing beside someone through life's joys and trials. Her words carried compassion, wisdom and a quiet assurance that helped others feel seen and supported.

Living a life rooted in the Gospel, S. Rita worked faithfully to bring understanding, healing and change. Her life proclaimed that even in challenging times, God continues to work through willing hearts, like those of the Racine Dominicans. "We are women with liabilities and assets, becoming more willing to reveal our liabilities so they may become assets in the hands of God," said S. Rita.



Thank you God for the gift of S. Rita. Her life reflected Christ's love in simple but powerful ways, leaving a lasting imprint on all of us.