

# Sister Betty Ann Heegeman, OP



Born to Earthly Life on March 29, 1942

First Profession on August 15, 1963

Entered Eternal Life on October 30, 2021

**B**ETTY ANN (Angela) Heegeman was born on March 29, 1942 in Appleton, WI, the youngest of Lawrence and Gladys Heegeman's three children. She grew up in Appleton and attended Catholic school in the area from first grade through high school.

Having an aunt and two cousins who were a part of the Racine Dominican Community meant she was connected to religious life from her family members. It was a life Betty Ann felt ultimately called to, and she made her first profession in 1963 and final vows in 1969.

S. Betty received a B.A. in Education from Dominican College and a Masters in School Administration from Notre Dame University. Education was her calling and she served faithfully in schools throughout Wisconsin and Michigan.

She was a primary school teacher in her early years, teaching at St. Rita in Racine, St. Mary in Kenosha and St. John in Little Chute before moving to Michigan. She loved teaching the children about Jesus and was very open in expressing her faith and love of God. She taught many how to pray and to set goals for themselves. She was awarded the National Education Association Presidential "Teacher of the Year" Award for the Diocese of Kalamazoo in 1981, which stated that she "continues to give her personal commitment to Jesus as she works to develop the spiritual, academic and social growth of each child placed in her care."

After that she moved into school administration, taking on the role of principal at schools in Paw Paw, Michigan, and in both Kiel and Chilton, Wisconsin. She was well loved and respected by staff and students alike.

S. Betty Ann was a teacher who strove for excellence in the classroom. She had a list of her objectives as an educator - providing an atmosphere conducive for learning, instilling Christian values, promoting positive attitudes, providing opportunities for leadership and continuing to be educated as well as be an educator.

After retiring from teaching, S. Betty Ann returned to Racine and dedicated her time to helping her Sisters and supporting the Racine Dominican ministries. She spent several years as an advocate for our Sisters in nursing homes. Whether helping to meet their needs, reading a card or letter, sharing the day's news or letting them know they were loved and cared for, S. Betty Ann was there providing support. She understood the importance of the small things, like bringing a favorite treat or being sure a Sister stayed connected to her family. Just as her goal as an educator was to keep on being educated, the same was true when she worked with the senior Sisters. She attended many workshops on elder care to help her understand her work. She was also a volunteer for the Senior Companion Program, the HOPES Center and Bethany Apartments. She was well respected and appreciated in all these areas.

She eventually was put in charge of the card shop at Siena, again meeting the needs of Sisters and staff to help them with cards, stamps and small gifts. She loved doing this work and found so much joy in helping others. She also loved to play cards and was part of many card groups who all loved her humor and spirit.

S. Betty Ann was a true example of sharing her blessings with others through laughter, love and prayer. She was a friend always giving, always sharing and always there. We are grateful for S. Betty Ann and her faithful witness as a Dominican, her dedication to educating youth and the countless ways she made life better for others.

