

# Sister Jean Anthony Ver Voort, OP



Born to Earthly Life on September 27, 1930

First Profession on August 15, 1950

Entered Eternal Life on December 17, 2021

**B**ARBARA FRANCES was born on September 27, 1930 in Little Chute, WI to John and Nellie Ver Voort. She was number 11 of the 16 Ver Voort children. Barbara believed the gift of faith from God is what led her to the calling of religious life. With the support of her parents, she joined the Racine Dominicans in September of 1945. At her reception in 1948 she was given the religious name Sister Mary Jean Anthony of the Holy Child Jesus. She professed her first vows in 1950 and her final vows in 1956.

Education was very important to S. Jean Anthony and she herself was a lifelong learner. She received a B.A. in Education at Dominican College in Racine and a Master of Arts degree in Education from Marquette University in Milwaukee. She also earned certifications in Education (Elementary Level), Special Reading (Elementary and Secondary Levels) and Reading Teacher (Elementary and Secondary Levels).

S. Jean Anthony taught grades one through twelve at schools throughout Wisconsin and Michigan. Locally she taught at St. Rita, St. Joseph and Sacred Heart in Racine, and St. Mary in Kenosha. She also served at St. Victor in Monroe, St. John in Little Chute, St. Bernard in Madison and St. Mary in Mayville. S. Jean Anthony also taught in Michigan at Assumption Grotto in Detroit and St. Clement in Center Line.

In 1993 she took on a new role as a Reading Diagnostician and Clinician in the One-on-One Learning Services at Alverno College in Milwaukee and directed the Reading & Learning Center at Siena Center in Racine. She often told her students that, “with their cooperation, she would help them improve their reading skills.” And she did so through individualized programs for each student that provided a strong foundation for future learning. She would say that her reward was “to see a spark of understanding in a child’s eyes, to know I have influenced a child for a lifetime, that no matter what walk of life the child takes, we have made it better.”

In her teaching, S. Jean Anthony helped each child she worked with to recognize their worth and beauty as human beings and to draw from others their own sense of dignity and respect through the joy of learning. In her life as a Racine Dominican, she found joy in prayer, saying the rosary and being a part of Community worship.

Sister Jean Anthony was a very compassionate, sincere woman of faith. We are so grateful for her dedication to her students, for her humor and joy and for her powerful witness to Dominican life.

