

# Sister Judene Walsh, OP



Born to Earthly Life on January 4, 1931

First Profession on August 15, 1950

Entered Eternal Life on March 11, 2022

**EDNA CLARA** was born in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin on January 4, 1931, the third of seven children of Frank and Sophia Walsh. She was raised on a 150-acre farm, where she and her siblings learned the value of hard work and the importance of family.

There were several priests and sisters among her relatives, and although she had not really considered religious life for herself, that changed when she attended her sister Pauline's reception into the Racine Dominicans. Pauline's radiant joy in being part of the community inspired her and she began to think about the direction of her own life. She answered her own call, joined the community and was given the name S. Judene, professing first vows in 1950 and final vows in 1956. She would define her time as a Racine Dominican as "energizing and life giving."

She received a bachelor's degree from Dominican College and worked in education for over 33 years as a music teacher, elementary school teacher and principal. Her joy of teaching was evident - she loved her students and worked tirelessly to share her love of learning with them. She served at the Dominican College School of Music and Holy Trinity in Racine, St. John in South Milwaukee and St. Mary in Kansasville and other schools throughout Wisconsin. She often said that "education never stops. There is always more to learn."

After retiring from teaching, she began a new phase of ministry that combined her love of learning, her organizational skills, her heart for justice and the call to be of service to others. S. Judene first worked as a parish pastoral minister at St. Mary's in Kansasville and enjoyed being a part of parish life. She continued to share her love of learning as an adult education tutor for more than ten years. S. Judene also worked at Siena as the Administrative Secretary and as the House Coordinator. No matter what she was doing, she always gave of herself and worked diligently, often behind the scenes.

It was her time with the Racine Dominican Mission Fund for which so many remember her. She served as the Mission Fund secretary for many years, helping to support efforts to make a more just world for all. She described her work with the Mission Fund as a singularly enriching and challenging experience. She took part in rallies, protests, contacted legislators, read numerous books, articles and studied. S. Judene was proud of the Racine Dominican community and the commitment to justice. "We are ever on the alert to hear and feel the cries of the poor and the needy, especially those alienated and marginalized by unjust systems," she said.

All that S. Judene did was a true reflection of her faith, and of her love of God, nature, people and justice. She lived simply and made a difference in countless ways to all she met. She will always be remembered as someone who found the joy in each day.

