

Sister Lorene Haas, OP



Born to Earthly Life on August 6, 1938

First Profession on August 15, 1958

Entered Eternal Life on November 10, 2022

LORENE MAGDALENA HAAS was born on August 6, 1938 in Roxbury, Wisconsin, the second oldest of the four children of Florian and Loretta Haas. Because of her family's German descent going back generations, the rosary and meal prayers were said in German every day in their deeply Catholic home.

Her family owned a small dairy farm, and Lorene and her siblings joined in the work, feeding chickens, gathering eggs and helping to milk the cows. After chores and school, Lorene and her friends spent all their time outdoors, playing sports of all kinds.

She attended school at St. Norbert in Roxbury, a school started by Racine Dominican Foundress Sister Mother Benedicta Bauer. She also had a great aunt and a cousin who were Racine Dominicans and they had an impact on her from an early age. She felt called to the religious life, making her first profession in 1958 and her final profession in 1964. She was given the name Sister Mary LaVerne of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

S. Lorene received a bachelor's degree in education from Dominican College and a master's degree in education from UW-Milwaukee. She was a teacher and principal for nearly 30 years at schools in New Mexico, Wisconsin and Michigan. S. Lorene devoted her life to working in central city schools, teaching both classroom subjects and also helping students navigate life outside of the classroom. She believed that all students could be successful when they have the tools and the support they need from someone who cares. She was that person for so many.

S. Lorene found teaching to be very meaningful, and many of her students found her to be a guide and mentor as they moved through their school years. She hoped to give students "a sense that pride can grow and develop so that each child will come to know the boundless energies that flow...because someone cared enough to give them their very best."

You could often find S. Lorene outside with students, playing games and encouraging them to be active. She was also the best player at the yearly softball game between the Sisters of Wisconsin and the Sisters of Michigan, with many home runs hit in those games.

After retiring from teaching, S. Lorene continued to serve others when she took on a job at the Cadillac Nursing Home in inner-city Detroit, helping seniors navigate their care and medical records. She spend nearly 15 years working on behalf of the seniors in her care.

S. Lorene was a woman of deep faith and had a passion to be of service to others. She cherished Dominican life and her Racine Dominican Sisters, saying "we strive to be faith-filled, courageous, forward-looking women who, through study and being attuned to signs of the times, work to bring about change in an alienated and fragmented society." We thank God for the gift of St. Lorene and the example of selfless service she gave to us all.

