

# Sister Mary Fisher, OP



Born to Earthly Life on January 6, 1926

First Profession on August 4, 1945

Entered Eternal Life on March 5, 2022

**FLORENCE FISHER** was born to Edward and Mary Fisher on January 6, 1926 in Detroit, Michigan. Florence was one of four children, including her sister Barbara who would also become a Racine Dominican Sister. She was a member of St. Veronica's Parish and educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph from Nazareth, MI in grade school. On the day of her First Communion, Florence knew she would become a Sister. She met several Racine Dominican Sisters when she entered Nativity High School in Detroit and was delighted to get to know them. She found the Racine Dominicans to be "relaxed and friendly, knowledgeable yet approachable. I was strongly attracted to their good humor." Florence was given the name of S. Mary Thaddeus, making her first profession in 1945 and her final profession in 1951.

S. Mary received a Bachelor's Degree from Dominican College, Racine, a Master's Degree from Marquette University, Milwaukee and did doctoral work in English at the University of Cincinnati. She was called to the ministry of teaching and was an educator for more than 52 years. She taught a range of ages and loved them all – from grade school and high school to universities and community colleges. She taught at St. Mary, St. Rose, St. Catherine's High School and Dominican College, all in Racine, and also in schools throughout Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio and New Mexico. S. Mary taught a variety of subjects – primary and secondary school, journalism, English, literature, poetry and speech. She was a lifelong learner and passed that enthusiasm along to her students.

In addition to teaching, she had a love of the theater, plays and musicals. She created plays for children and adults and directed more than 40 plays in her career – plays like Brigadoon, Our Town, Oklahoma, Music Man and Show Boat to name a few.

S. Mary was intellectually curious and became an excellent writer of prose, poetry, articles for newsletters, the local papers and of her own prayers. When S. Mary was 88 years old she wrote a piece on loneliness, "Ours is a holy and wholesome loneliness...loneliness waiting for companionship, union, fulfillment. In our loneliest hours the spark of God-life, ignited in our souls at Baptism, flares out in yearning desire to be utterly consumed by the Flame of Love whom we call God."

Besides teaching and directing plays, S. Mary loved to volunteer at the Center of Community Concerns and Senior Companion Program. She happily gave of her time and talents wherever she found a need.

S. Mary had many favorite Scripture quotes that she would often share. One favorite passage was, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied graces." (Peter 1:4-10). S. Mary tried to live this passage day in and day out, as she cared for the sick, taught her many students, shared her gift with words and her flare for the dramatic wherever and whenever she was needed.

S. Mary, we thank you for the many ways you generously shared your gifts with us. We celebrate you today as a woman of prayer, a wonderful teacher and faithful friend to many.

