

Sister Rosaire Lucassen, OP



Born to Earthly Life on December 29, 1931

First Profession on August 15, 1953

Entered Eternal Life on October 8, 2022

LUCILLE BERNICE LUCASSEN was born on December 29, 1931 in Racine, Wisconsin to her parents, George and Bernice Lucassen. She was a child of deep faith who was an avid reader from an early age. You could often find her happily lost in a book.

She had an aunt who was a Racine Dominican Sister, and as a child she was taught by many Racine Dominicans at both St. Edward's and St. Catherine's High School. Their steady presence in her life made a huge impact on her. She shared that often times she would look out the window at St. Catherine's to the Motherhouse across the street and felt called to it. She made her first profession on August 15, 1953 and her final vows on August 15, 1959 and was given the name Sister Rosaire of St. Dominic.

S. Rosaire received a Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree and a Ph.D from Loyola University in Chicago. Her focus areas were Psychology and Personality. She began her ministry as a teacher at St. Catherine's High School and then as a professor at Dominican College, both in Racine. She also served as the Academic Dean at Dominican College. S. Rosaire then took on leadership roles for the Racine Dominicans – first as Vice President and then as President.

After her leadership roles, S. Rosaire returned to St. Catherine's High School to work as a guidance counselor, helping thousands of students navigate their high school years. Her work encompassed many different areas – she advised students on course selection, walked with them through the college admissions process, helped them to find employment and assisted students with academic and personal issues. What she is most remembered for is the way she cared for, supported and nurtured the students in her care. It was not uncommon for someone to seek her out when life felt overwhelming – when school was a challenge, when family issues at home were difficult or when they needed some sound advice. S. Rosaire influenced the lives of her students through her careful, gentle guidance.

After her retirement from St. Catherine's, her love of books would lead her to working at the Library at Siena, where she encouraged Sisters and Associates to share in her passion for reading by sharing her personal book recommendations. And as she did for her students, S. Rosaire faithfully guided, mentored and companioned many Sisters in times of sorrow, success, and transition. S. Rosaire's profound belief that God would always be with her, and would always be with us, allowed her to be with each person in the moments of need or joy.

S. Rosaire was able to make inferences, connections and analogies to help us and others understand our complicated and interdependent world. People were drawn to her authenticity and her ability to speak the truth with love and gentleness.

S. Rosaire was always a person of hope – seeing the glass always half-full, and able to discover the silver lining to every cloud. She saw, nurtured and brought to life the best in her students, her friends, her colleagues and her Sisters.

