



Name: Sister Jane Marie Loderbauer  
Date of Birth: November 4, 1942  
Place of Birth: Appleton, Wisconsin  
Parents: Joseph J. and Helen Elizabeth (Gabrielson) Loderbauer  
Religious Profession: June 14, 1963  
Date of Death: July 17, 2022  
Age: 79  
Years Professed: 59

#### Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Louise Esther was born at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton, Wisconsin on November 4, 1942 to Joseph J. and Helen Elizabeth (Gabrielson) Loderbauer. Louise was baptized at St. Mary's Church in Kaukauna, WI on November 15, 1942. She received the Sacrament of Confirmation there on November 13, 1955.

Louise grew up on the family farm with two older brothers, Joe and Mike. When she was ten years old her sister, Betty, was born and eight years later, her sister, Joan, joined the family. Faith and God were central in the Loderbauer Family home. There were common Lenten practices of no eating candy, praying the rosary and attending the Stations of the Cross. Family prayer and attendance at devotions were part of their daily life. Louise loved growing up on the farm with all the animals. When she was in second grade it was her job to take care of the chickens. Because she spent so much time in the chicken coop, the chickens became tame.

Louise began her formal education by attending Kindergarten at St. Mary's School in Kaukauna. She began thinking about being a Sister when she was in fourth and fifth grade. She liked her teacher, Sister Rosina Beyerl. When she was in the eighth grade, several Holy Family Convent Aspirants visited the school to share what Convent life was like. In time, this confirmed Louise's desire to be a Sister. By going to the Convent, there would be three generations of Loderbauer Sisters: Sister Francisca Loderbauer, her great Aunt, Sister Vincentine Theissen, her Aunt and herself. When she asked her parents for their blessing to enter the Convent, her Dad encouraged her to attend Kaukauna High School for a year or two. She did obey her Dad's request and providentially was at home when she got rheumatic fever and had to spend most of the summer in bed.

Louise attended Kaukauna High School where she pursued business courses to become a secretary in case she did not go to the Convent. In her senior year she was sure she wanted to be a Sister and took first-year Latin. Louise graduated from Kaukauna High School in 1961. With the blessing of her parents, Louise visited Holy Family Convent and on May 27, 1961 she wrote the following letter to Mother Agna.

*Dear Mother General,*

*We certainly enjoyed visiting Holy Family Convent and the College. It was not only a very big place, but also a very beautiful place. There were so many rooms and each one was different. The library was quite unusual with its mezzanine. All the nuns, especially you, were so cordial and cheerful.*

*After doing some more pensive thinking and visiting your college, I have reached a decision. Will you please send me the application papers? Now that I have made my decision, I hope that you, too, will pray to God for me so that I may have enough courage, as well as will-power to come and join you this fall. May God bless you always.*

*Respectfully yours,  
Louise Loderbauer*

The following letter of recommendation was dated June 21, 1961:

*Venerable Mother Superior:*

*This is to certify that I have known Louise Esther Loderbauer for the past six years, that her character is excellent, that she comes from a fine Catholic family and that in my estimation, she has all the spiritual, intellectual and physical qualifications necessary for a vocation and consequently, I recommend her most highly for acceptance in your esteemed Community.*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Rev. Peter A. Salm, Pastor*

Louise was accepted and entered Holy Family Convent September 1961. At the time of her Reception, June 13, 1962, Louise was given the name, Sister Jane Marie. Sister Jane Marie attended Silver Lake College of the Holy Family, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1970 with a Major in Latin and a Minor in Natural Science. Even though Sister Jane Marie did not like going to school, she loved to teach. She taught first and second grade students for forty years. During that time, Sister Jane Marie was faithful to up-dating her Catechetical and Academic certifications.

Sister Jane Marie was an amazing teacher, a master teacher! One scripted evaluation was five pages long. In part it reads:

*If teaching is an art, Sister Jane Marie is the resident DaVinci –with combined talents of superior teaching technique and exceptionally creative and inventive lesson design. For instance, her second graders engage in brainstorming with dozens of yellow sponges; they learn how to*

*graph with M & M's; they complete arithmetic drills with decks of playing cards. Spelling is mastered through an unusual combination of choral reading and beat-the-clock. Sister Jane Marie uses drama as the vehicle for developing self-esteem, poise and confidence. Playacting also enhances memory, cooperative group skills and speaking talents in her classroom.*

*The time Sister Jane Marie spends on building self-esteem, individually nurturing and encouraging students, setting high but attainable expectations, and always praising attempts as well as actual achievement, reap immeasurable benefits. Because students believe they CAN, they DO. Because they are encouraged to take risks, they excel. Because Sister's support is constant and her love unconditional, students blossom. Students become fluent readers, writers, speakers. They learn to listen, to think creatively, to solve problems and most importantly to care for each other.*

After teaching for so many years, things began to change in the administration of the schools. There were new ways of teaching and doing things, which added extra challenge for classroom preparation. Sister Jane Marie was also experiencing health issues and a decrease in energy. The transition out of the classroom was very difficult for Sister Jane Marie. Even though she left the classroom, she still continued to share her creativity by making special reflection books for the Postulants and Novices.

Along with teaching, Sister Jane Marie enjoyed baking, sewing, bike riding, Scripture Study, making reflection books and cards. When Sister Jane Marie came home to the Motherhouse she had a variety of jobs. Her favorite was stocking and coordinating the Sister's Shop. She found many ways to use her organizational and secretarial skills for the good of the different areas where she served. Special opportunities that she treasured for 19 years included being homemaker for the Community's Hospitality Houses and the House of Prayer in the summers. She appreciated the spiritual benefits of cooking for Sister Evelyn Ann Schumacher's and Father Crain's Retreats.

Sister Jane Marie recognized that God favored her in many ways during her life. She was very grateful to Him for her family, the Community and the many blessings that came out of the challenging times. She attributed her successes to God for the many ways He gifted her. It seemed that Sister Jane Marie had a sense that her earthly life was nearing an end. She freely spoke of being ready to die. We will remember Sunday and the announcement that Sister Jane Marie died, almost without foreknowledge. She was ready. Being a teacher, Sister Jane Marie reminded us once again of an important lesson: to be ready, for we do not know the day, the time, nor the way we will end our earthly journey and return to the Lord.

Thank you, Sister Jane Marie, for the example of selfless giving that you have shown us through your life. Thank you for being our Sister, a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. May you enjoy your eternal reward. May you rest in peace. Amen!