



Name: Sister Valerie Lemansky  
Date of Birth: November 2, 1932  
Place of Birth: Menominee, Michigan  
Parents: Stanley and Violet Leona (Senn) Lemansky  
Religious Profession: August 15, 1957  
Date of Death: January 31, 2023  
Age: 90  
Years Professed: 65

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

Dorothy Clara Lemansky was born on November 2, 1932 in Menominee, Michigan to Stanley and Violet Leona (Senn) Lemansky. Dorothy was Baptized at St. Adalbert's Roman Catholic Church in Menominee on November 20, 1932. She made her First Holy Communion there on July 8, 1939 and received the Sacrament of Confirmation on August 29, 1946.

Dorothy was the third oldest of the Lemansky children. She had four brothers and two sisters. The family lived in the country and attended the one room country school. They attended Summer Catechism Classes taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity from Manitowoc. In 1943 the Country School contracted for bus service to town for the high school students. Dorothy's parents thought it was time for the children to attend one of the Catholic Schools in Menominee. The family had to pay a fee for the children to get a bus ride as far as the High School and then they walked two blocks to St. John's School, which was staffed by our Sisters. The sacrifices of the family were well worth it for the good education the children received from the Franciscan Sisters.

As a senior in High School, Dorothy was able to attend a half day of school and then work the other half-day. The Menominee High School placed her at Carpenter Cook Company, a wholesale grocery store, where she worked for six and a half years, as an office aide, bookkeeper and cashier. It was during this time that Dorothy thought more and more about being a Sister. Besides knowing the Sisters, their pastor, Father Coreoran, was often a guest in the Lemansky home for a meal. He had a weekly religion program on the radio, that the family listened to faithfully, to nurture their own Faith life. When Dorothy talked with her parents about her desire to be a Sister, they were very encouraging. In a letter dated September 3, 1955 Dorothy wrote the following letter:

*Dear Mother M. Edna:*

*I would like to be admitted to your Convent this fall. After talking it over with Sister Romanus, she said she would write you and now I have received a letter stating that I should write to you for admittance.*

*The first six years of my schooling were at our Elmwood Country School, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> years at St. John's, 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> at Menominee High. We were members of St. Adalbert's Church until we transferred to St. John's this spring.*

*In 1949 I completed High School majoring in the Commercial Courses. During the second semester of my senior year, I held a part-time job doing bookkeeping. Since graduation I have continued doing bookkeeping along with cashier work. In this work I receive and balance payments for accounts receivable. I also type and balance checks for the accounts payable.*

*I would like to study in the nursing field. I have failed to study Latin and other essential subjects in this line, not to mention how green I must be after being out of school these years. In the event that I do not qualify for this type of work, perhaps I could continue in the commercial field.*

*I am anxious to start as soon as possible, but at present we are in the process of closing our books for the fiscal year and expect the auditors at which time I must be present. The Office Manager has planned her vacation for the last two weeks of September and I will be left in charge of the bookkeeping department.*

*If I am accepted, I should give the company a two weeks' notice. Would also like to know details in regard to entrance.*

*Sincerely yours,  
Dorothy Lemansky*

On September 15, 1955 the following letter of recommendation was written by her pastor:

*Dear Mother Edna,*

*Miss Dorothy Clara Lemansky, a member of this parish, wishes to present herself as a candidate for admission to your esteemed Community. I am happy to give her my complete approval and my highest recommendation as prospective subject of the Sisters of St. Francis of Christian Charity.*

*With best prayerful wishes for you and your good Sisters, I am, yours sincerely in Christ,*

*Msgr. John T. Holland*

A reference letter was also received from Dorothy's place of work dated September 23, 1955:

*Dear Mother Edna:*

*Your request for information about Dorothy Lemansky was received this morning. We hold Dorothy in very highest esteem. She is the finest girl we have had in our employment over many years. Her family are all devout Catholics, which gives her a fine background. In our office Dorothy has the duties of cashier. She is exceptionally capable, and has a high sense of responsibility. She works efficiently and gets along well with the people in the office. On occasions where sickness or vacations of other employees have required her to take over other duties, she has filled these needs quietly and efficiently. In my judgment, she is of the very highest character and moral habits.*

*While we would be sorry to lose her, we are pleased that she seeks entrance to your Religious Community. I feel that you would have to search a long time to find a better candidate. Trusting that this is the information that you wish,*

*Yours truly,  
John St. Peter  
Vice-President of Carpenter Cook Company*

Dorothy was accepted and entered Holy Family Convent on October 30 1955. On June 13, 1956 she received the name Sister Valerie. She had submitted Valerie as a third choice in honor of one of her grandmothers and one of her sisters.

Dorothy attended Holy Family College receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree on May 19, 1968 with a Major in Elementary Education and a Minor in Social Science. She earned a Masters of Education from John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio on August 31, 1980 with a Major in Education and a Minor in Administration Supervision. Sister Valerie kept up-dated in trends in education and administration by attending Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee, St. John College in Cleveland, Ohio and the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Other refresher courses were taken to keep professional certifications and licenses current when she was missioned in Nebraska, Hawaii and Arizona.

Sister Valerie was always appreciative of the educational opportunities she received. She taught elementary grades for 15 years in schools in Wisconsin and Ohio. Then for 32 years she served as principal in schools in Ohio, Nebraska, Hawaii, Wisconsin and Arizona. Sister Valerie enjoyed the educational journey that the Community provided through the opportunities that took her to so many beautiful places across our Country, meeting so many wonderful people. Sister Valerie had high esteem and appreciation for all teachers. She especially enjoyed her last year of administration in being an aide to the principals in two Catholic Schools in Tucson. She was endeared to many people. One pre-school child in Santa Cruz School in Tucson called her Grandma Sister.

After her full retirement from being an administrator in schools, Sister Valerie served as librarian in the College and at St. Francis Convent. In 2018, when her health was in decline, Sister Valerie moved to St. Rita Health Center. She participated in the Prayer Apostolate praying for the Sisters and people at St. Andrew's Parish in Sierra Vista, Arizona. By lovingly accepting her sufferings and limitations, Sister Valerie participated in Christ's work of redemption.

In her relaxing time, Sister Valerie enjoyed typing, knitting, crocheting and reading. In her jubilee reflection Sister Valerie expressed how grateful she was to God for the many blessings she enjoyed by following the path He called her to. I quote, "I consider myself fortunate having been brought up by parents and family in a faith filled home. Their words and example led me to serving the Church among the people of God. My parents, family, and my supervisor where I worked, were very supportive in my decision to follow the call to Religious Life. Her personal mantra was, "With Christ I can do all things. I have never regretted my decision to be a Religious, though our Lord is keeping secret what lies ahead for me. I just kept doing my best. Trusting all the rest to God."

We now know what lies ahead for Sister Valerie. We pray for the repose of her soul as she joins the Communion of Saints and lives forever with God. Thank you, Sister Valerie, for your witness as a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity. We trust that you will intercede for us for all the Community needs, especially for the blessing of Vocations. May you rest in peace.