

Sister LaVerne Farrell (Siena)



752 ()

Born: May 24, 1919
Parents: James and Effie (Johnson) Farrell
Entered from: St. Pascal Parish
Postulancy: September 5, 1939
Novitiate: August 12, 1940
Profession: August 12, 1942
Died: Sunday, May 4, 1997 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home at 6:15 a.m.

Ministry:

1942 - 1943 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, College of St. Francis, Student
1943 - 1945 St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH, History, Latin, Home Economics
1945 - 1949 St. Michael High School, Sigel, IL, English, History, Physiology, Librarian
1949 - 1955 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, History, Civics, Religion
1955 - 1958 St. Francis De Sales High School, Chicago, IL, Religion, Typing, English, History, Health
1958 - 1962 Joliet Catholic High School, Joliet, IL, History, English
1962 - 1967 Bishop Ready High School, Columbus, OH, Assistant Principal, History
1967 - 1973 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Administrative Assistant
1973 - 1974 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Dean
1974 - 1997 Cardinal Gibbons High School, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Social Studies

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL Tuesday, May 6, 1997
2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Tuesday, May 6, 1997 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Wednesday, May 7, 1997 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L339-G12

Survived by: her sister Joan (Foster) Pottle and nieces and nephews

For those who have been faithful, O Lord,

life is not ended, but merely changed.

Sister LaVerne Farrell was born in Chicago, Illinois on May 24, 1919 to James and Effie Johnson Farrell. During her grade school years, LaVerne's family moved and she transferred from St. Genevieve School to St. Pascal School in Chicago, where she became acquainted with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters. LaVerne graduated from Siena High School in 1938.

When LaVerne was 21 years old, she came to Joliet and was received as a postulant. The following August 12, 1940 LaVerne became a novice and received the name of Sister Mary Siena.

Her ministry of teaching began in September of 1943 at St. Mary High School in Columbus, Ohio, where she taught History, Latin and Home Economics. Over half a century, Sister LaVerne taught in seven high schools including St. Michael in Sigel, Illinois, St. Francis Academy in Joliet, St. Francis DeSales in Chicago, Joliet Catholic High School in Joliet, Bishop Ready High School in Columbus, Ohio and Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Sister LaVerne was prepared in her work and taught as she lived--with enthusiasm. As a history teacher, she had a gift for making the events and people come alive in the classroom. She also taught the discipline of outlining to help to keep the facts in clear perspective. Reminding her students of the balance in life, she would point out that you never have a sub-point of "a." unless there is also a "b." She is remembered by her students for her love of God, her keen sense of humor and her devoted love of her "Cubbies." Her devotion to the Cubs was faithful whether they were winning or losing.

In her life, LaVerne sought to be faithful - in days that were happy and filled with gladness, as well as in days when things were dreary and weighing her down. She had a practical side, a balance to her humor, and a depth that was a rudder to her lighter side. She spoke of her life as having sorrowful as well as glorious mysteries. She experienced the sadness of the death of her father as a very young child, and later the death of her brother and other family members.

When her energy was no longer as strong as before, Sister LaVerne decided to bring her own teaching days to a close and devote her energies to helping others to serve in education by preparing meals and assisting in other ways in the Sisters' residence in Fort Lauderdale.

Sister LaVerne knew the love and support of her sister Joan who spent quality time with her in her final weeks at Our Lady of Angels. Joan joined the sisters who kept vigil through the early morning hours of May 4th. As the sun was rising and as the Sisters in Fort Lauderdale united in prayerful vigil across the miles, Sister LaVerne peacefully breathed her last, going forth on the wings of dawn to her eternal reward.

Sister LaVerne, we thank you for the gift of your life. We ask you to pray for us, your Franciscan Sisters, your family, your friends and your students. May you watch over our youth today, that they may be guided to live with enthusiasm and conviction. May you enjoy the peace of God's love, forever. Amen. Alleluia.

