



Sr. Jean Dezort

October 17, 1929 – July 16, 2010

Sr. Jean Dezort (80), formerly Sr. Frederick, died on July 16, 2010, at Regina Health Center (Richfield, OH) in her 62nd year of religious profession.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, to James C. and Edith (Pfeil) Dezort, Jean Doris was the couple's only daughter. She entered the Sisters of St. Dominic of Akron on January 18, 1947, from St. Cecilia Parish, Cleveland, and made her First Profession on June 20, 1949.

Sr. Jean earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from St. John College (Cleveland, OH), a master's degree in religious education from Seattle University (Seattle, WA), and a certificate in counseling from the University of Akron (Akron, OH).

Sr. Jean began her ministry in education at Our Lady of the Elms Elementary School (Akron), and for the next 15 years she continued teaching in Ohio schools at the junior high level at St. Agatha (Cleveland), St. Dominic (Youngstown), and St. Paul (Akron). In 1965, she began working in pastoral ministry, becoming one of the first women religious involved with the Newman apostolate at the University of Akron. Later she served in pastoral ministry at Sr. William (Warren, OH), Nativity of the Lord Jesus (Uniontown, OH), and St. Mary & Missions (Rifle, CO). In 1983 she returned to the campus scene as the Director of Religious Education and Pastoral Associates at Kent State University's Parish Newman Center. In 1995 she moved to Florida, where she ministered in adult education and other areas at Sr. John Vianney Parish (St. Petersburg Beach) and St. Raphael Parish (Englewood). Though Sr. Jean loved the ocean and spending time in sunny Florida, she returned to Akron in 2005, where she volunteered in the RCIA programs at Immaculate Heart of Mary and Holy Family Parishes before retiring to Regina Health Care Center this year for hospice care.

Sr. Jean loved life and enjoyed it to the absolute fullest. She treasured her relationships and remained loyal to anyone she called "friend." She also loved a good movie, and on the weekends would often gather DVDs to show her fellow Sisters for Sunday afternoon entertainment.

A deeply spiritual person, Sr. Jean brought the Word alive through her homilies, which often seemed to touch each listener in a personal way. Each Sunday morning, Sr. Jean could be found in the Akron Motherhouse chapel leading a prayer service for intercession requests received through the course of the week. Though she battled many health problems, she also continued ministering to her community through her involvement as a leader in Motherhouse study groups and a community program called Hear & Proclaim.

The wake service and funeral Mass were held at the Akron Motherhouse on July 19 and 20. Sr. Jean was buried on July 20 at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in Sr. Jean's memory may be sent to Dominican Sisters of Peace, 2320 Airport Dr., Columbus, OH 43219-2098.