

Sister Janet Voss, C.PP.S.

Born: September 20, 1941

Professed: August 10, 1964

Entered into Life: December 11, 2019

Verse on her memorial card:

**“You are my beloved, my chosen one, my precious one
in whom I am well pleased.”**



December 12, 2019

Dear Sisters,

As quietly and unobtrusively as she lived, our Sister Janet Voss left this life around 8 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2019. One of the Abbey nurses had just been helping Sister Janet. About 15 minutes later, the nurse went back to check on her and discovered, to everyone's surprise, that Sister Janet had gone home to God.

It almost seems as if Sister Janet may have chosen the day of her leave-taking. December 11 is her father's death anniversary, and it also is the eve of her nameday. It is easy to imagine Sister Janet arriving at heaven's door and sharing hugs with her father and with Our Lady of Guadalupe, her patron.

Janet Josephine Voss was born on September 20, 1941 at St. Mary's Hospital in Quincy, Illinois, the first of the four children of Agnes (Frese) and Frank Voss, Sr. She grew up on the family farm near Mendon, IL. As the oldest, Janet learned much about cooking, cleaning, sewing, and, most importantly, about caring for others. She used these skills throughout her life.

Sister Janet (Francis Agnes) was received into our novitiate on July 25, 1962, and she professed first vows on August 10, 1964. She earned an Associate of Arts degree from St. Mary's College in 1969.

Although she had hoped to be a teacher, Sister Janet realized that her gifts lay elsewhere. She worked in our Ecclesiastical Art Department until 1980 when she began serving as a librarian at St. Monica School in Creve Coeur. She continued in library service at St. Mary's College and St. Charles County Community College until her retirement in 2010. She volunteered in numerous capacities at Villa Theresa until 2015 when she moved to Mount Carmel (now Abbey Senior Health) and began the ministry of prayer and presence.

Sister Janet was eager to develop her gifts and to share them with others. Whether stitching in the art department, delivering mail at the motherhouse, or helping a student find a book, she always gave generously of herself. Her work in the library developed her own desire to read, something that she said was difficult for her as a student. She eagerly shared her new-found love of reading and her warm hospitality with her library patrons.

Sister Janet's warm smile and strong hugs were gifts she shared freely. She made everyone feel welcomed, loved, and appreciated. Community and family were very important to her. In recent years she spent much time researching her family tree, and she loved visiting with her family and sharing her findings. She remained active and involved in community events, always attending community gatherings even when a wheelchair and oxygen tank became necessities. Sister Janet loved to participate in the activities at Abbey Senior Health; even on the day of her death, she had been with the residents making a Christmas angel. (She loved angels.)

Sister Janet was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Frank, Jr. and Donna Voss; and her sisters and brothers-in-law, Suzanne and Lawrence Maas and Barbara and Donald Oitker; she also is survived by nieces, nephews, and cousins. Let us hold them close in prayer along with Sister Janet's faithful friend and profession classmate, Sister Anna Marie Himmelberg.

Sister Janet's body will be returned to St. Joseph Chapel at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15, 2019, and her wake will be from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. with a Prayer Service of Thanksgiving at 6 p.m. Her wake will continue Monday, December 16, from 9 – 10:45 a.m. with her Funeral Mass at 11 a.m., all in St. Joseph Chapel.

Sister Janet wrote in her autobiography, "As I look over my life and ask who I am close to, I feel Our Lord is the closest friend I have, for I feel he understands me." We trust that Sister Janet now is united with her closest friend and that He is welcoming her with the words that she chose for her memorial card, "You are my beloved, my chosen one, my precious one in whom I am well pleased."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Janice Bader".

Sr. Janice Bader