



*In Memory of
Sister Lorraine Brueggemann
1932-2024*

February 27, 2024

Dear Sisters, Family, and Friends,

In the early hours of February 22, 2024, our Sister Lorraine Brueggemann left this life in the behind-the-scenes manner that was so characteristic of her. An Abbey nurse discovered shortly after 5 a.m. that Sister Lorraine had gone home to God.

Dorothy Rose Brueggemann was born in south St. Louis County on February 19, 1932, the second of four children of Aloys and Rose (Scherrer) Brueggemann. When her older brother reached school age, the family moved to her grandmother's farm so the children could attend Assumption in Mattese where they were taught by our sisters.

After completing eighth grade, Dorothy entered our community's aspirancy. As an adult, she marveled that she had made this decision at the tender age of fourteen, and she credited God's grace for enabling her to grow into her life choice. She was received into our novitiate on July 25, 1950, and was given the name Sister Lorraine. She professed first vows on August 10, 1952.

Sister Lorraine earned a Bachelor of Arts in Latin at St. Louis University. She completed a Master of Arts in Theology at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN.

Sister Lorraine taught elementary grades in Missouri at St. Patrick, Wentzville; St. Alphonsus, Millwood; Assumption, Mattese; St. John the Baptist, Gildehaus; and St. Joseph, Cottleville. She served as both principal and teacher at St. Maurus, Biehle.

Sister Lorraine enjoyed country-parish life -- teaching, sacristy work, training servers, playing the organ, and directing the choir. Her farm-girl experience was very helpful when she discovered the chicken a parishioner offered for the sisters' dinner was still alive!

In 1972 Sister Lorraine was missioned to St. Elizabeth Academy (SEA) where she would serve for forty-two years. The initial adjustment was almost beyond words -- from rural to city life, from co-ed elementary school to an all-girls high school, from serving as principal to being one of many teachers, from a community of two to a community of more than

forty sisters. Sister Lorraine weathered that transition and thrived. She taught theology and later served as Admissions Director and Financial Aid Director. She worked tirelessly to assist girls who had a strong desire for education but lacked financial resources. In 2005 she was honored by the St. Louis Archdiocese with the *Servant of the Poor* award.

In addition to teaching at SEA, Sister Lorraine wrote for the *St. Louis Review*. She addressed her weekly column, *Youth Views*, to young people. Then, her teaching instinct prompted her to invite students to write. She organized and edited submissions from twenty-five high schools throughout the archdiocese.

Sister Lorraine loved music and had a strong alto voice. While in Collegeville, she was invited to join the monks' choir—an invitation not readily extended to women. She was an avid Cardinals and Blues fan and an expert at knitting; fishing was her favorite pastime.

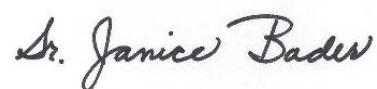
When St. Elizabeth Academy and Convent closed, Sister Lorraine and Sister Marie Loeffler moved to an apartment in south St. Louis. They became active members of St. Wenceslaus Parish and enjoyed visiting the homebound. In this, as in all her ministries, Sister Lorraine brought calmness, caring, and compassion along with her beautiful smile and sparkling eyes. Though leaving the city was difficult, she and Sister Marie moved to O'Fallon in 2016 with a positive attitude and copious expressions of gratitude.

Sister Lorraine was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, George, and his wife Carole. She is survived by her brother, Edward (Jane) Brueggemann, by her sister, Lorraine (James) Schinsky, and by nieces, nephews, and many friends. Please hold them in prayer during this time of loss.

Sister Lorraine's body will be returned to St. Joseph's Chapel at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 2, 2024. The public wake will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Her burial will be in our convent cemetery.

In her autobiography, Sister Lorraine wrote, "My goal was always to lead students to a greater love and stronger relationship with Jesus Christ. I always tried to picture myself as transparent so students could see Jesus through me." Now we can picture Jesus saying to her, "Now your eyes can see, and your ears can hear what I have ready for you who loved me" (paraphrase of the verse Sister Lorraine chose for her memorial card).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Janice Bader". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Sr. Janice Bader