

We of Nojoshing

Nojoshing – Indian word for the area where our pioneer members settled in 1849; it means “piece of land stretching into the water.”
The name was changed later to Saint Francis, Wisconsin.



Newsletter of The New Assisi Archives

THE SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI, 3221 South Lake Drive, Saint Francis, WI 53235-3799

We celebrate the memory of our beloved Sister Valerie (Sister Mary Raymond) Jarzembowski November 14, 1935 – April 29, 2025

Sister Valerie was born to Jessie Jarzembowski in Queens, NY. She had three sisters and two brothers. Her mother was from Poland.

She was raised in a prayerful home environment, and by the age of seven or eight, Valerie knew she wanted to become a Sister.

Her search for a religious congregation led her to the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore. Her first encounter with them was in Harlem when she visited the Sisters who were teaching at Resurrection School. She then visited the Motherhouse in Baltimore. After graduation from high school in January 1955, Valerie entered the community on February 2, 1955. Her Dedication was “Of the Holy Will of God,” and her Motto was “God Alone.”

The Sisters recognized her potential and informed her she would be enrolled in college to prepare for a teaching ministry. Valerie’s goal had been to serve orphans and African American children, but she honored her assignment and became a teacher. She received her bachelor’s degree in education from Notre Dame College in Baltimore and a master’s degree in education (special education) from Loyola College, Baltimore. She also held a master’s degree in administration/supervision from Loyola College.

From 1957 to 1972 she taught in grade schools in New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In 1972 she began her ministry in special education at St. Elizabeth School in Baltimore. From 1974 to 1976, she served as administrator at the Baltimore Association for Retarded Children. From 1976 to 1989, and from 1992 to 1993, she taught special education and served as administrator at St. Francis School in Baltimore. Beginning in 1989 she worked for three years with Catholic Charities in Baltimore where she helped to start a program with Sister Mildred Rothwell, OSF, that cared for babies with AIDS.

After her ministry with the babies, Sister Valerie had several different assignments, including school principal, special education teacher, Motherhouse coordinator, and working at Cardinal Cushing Centers in Hanover, Mass. She remained in the Baltimore area after the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore merged with The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in 2001. From 2002 to 2012, she served at St. Elizabeth School as a teacher and financial assistant.

Sister Valerie enjoyed being in nature and was inspired and energized by the time she spent in Assisi, Italy. She loved seeing children succeed, and valued opportunities for quiet prayer.

She retired in 2012 to Clare Court in Baltimore, and moved to Clare Hall in Saint Francis, Wis., in 2016. She transferred to the newly constructed St. Francis Convent in 2019, where she died peacefully. Sister Regine Ehm was at her side at the time of death.

*~ Marian Doyle
Director of Communications
The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi*