



Sister Johnette Sawyer, OSB

Catholic Obituary

Born in Pueblo, CO., and taught by the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago at St. Leander, Sister Johnette Sawyer felt called to join the Benedictines during college. She entered the monastery in 1955. Her first profession of vows was during the Easter season and her final vows were also during the Eastertide of 1957. Sister Johnette held a long career in education, and liturgical and parish ministry in both Colorado and Illinois. Sister Johnette exemplified a spirit of hospitality and a genuine interest in people, always ready to welcome and engage in lively conversation. Hers was a warm and welcoming spirit that made people feel at home.

On Easter Monday Sister Johnette was hospitalized after she contracted the coronavirus (COVID-19). Three weeks of treatment and care could not save her life, although she gave her all to not succumb. On May 1 she was anointed by the chaplain at St. Francis Hospital (Evanston, IL) and she died May 2, after 63 years as a vowed Benedictine Sister. Sister Johnette's investiture, and both her triennial and her final vows all took place during the Easter season. How appropriate that this, the final event of her time on earth, came during this holy season. She is mourned by her Benedictine community, her sister Marilyn Graybill, her brother John and extended family. Her loss is also felt by the many people among whom she ministered for so many years.

Archdiocese of Chicago, 1957-1958 Queen of All Saints 6th grade, 1959-1964 St. Hilary and St. Symphorosa Middle School and the sacristan in the parish.

Diocese of Pueblo 1964 Saint Michael Parish in Delta, CO, 5th & 6th grade, parish organist, 1965 -1971
Saint Leander (home parish) Pueblo, CO. 8 years, 1971-1973 Pastoral work at St. Leander, 1973-1978
Pastoral work with missions in Capulin in the San Luis Valley, 1978-1984 St. Leander, 1984-1994 Sacred
Heart Cathedral (Pueblo, CO.), Director of Music and Liturgy, 1994 – 1998 Monte Vista in San Luis
Valley - Pastoral work,1998 -2004 St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Pueblo West, CO. pastoral ministry, 2004-
2012 Alamosa, CO., 2012-2015 Shrine of St. Therese liturgical music pastoral ministry Pueblo, CO.