

**Norma Jean Borman**  
**Salvatorian Lay Associate**  
**1944-1990**



Norma Jean (Heitke) Borman was one of the initial Salvatorian Associates, which evolved into the Lay Salvatorians. She was born in Portage, Wisconsin in 1944. She was a member of the Sisters of the Divine Savior until her temporary vows expired in 1970. Her initial formation in Salvatorian history, charism and mission values became a foundation for her dedication to all things Salvatorian. She received a B.A. degree in Theology from Marquette University, taught in elementary schools in Milwaukee, Bloomer and Wausau, Wisconsin and was actively engaged in the renewal occurring in religious life after Vatican II. After that, she moved to St. Nazianz, Wisconsin where she taught at JFK Prep High School and continued active involvement with the Salvatorians. When Fr. Ramon Wagner, SDS, began exploration of an Associate Program for Salvatorians in 1971, Norma was on the ad Hoc Committee of 15 persons, SDS and lay, who worked to develop the proposal for the Synod. The proposal was accepted by the SDS-M Provincial Chapter of 1973. Norma married Jim Borman in 1971 at St. Ambrose Church, which was on the grounds of JFK Prep in St. Nazianz. Norma was one of the first Salvatorian Associates. She and her husband, Jim, made their commitment on December 8, 1971. She remained actively engaged with the Lay Salvatorian program all her life. As their life moved forward, Norma and Jim became the proud and loving parents of four wonderful children: EJ and Jesse (twins), Nathan and Jamie.

In 1980, when it became evident that JFK Prep would need to close due to declining student enrollment, Norma left JFK, where she had been teacher, business manager, counselor, part time cook, etc., and accepted a position at Lakeshore Technical College as Administrative Personnel Assistant. In 1984, she was hired by the Manitowoc School District and, in 1988, Roncalli High School, Manitowoc, hired her as Religion teacher and campus minister. Teaching at Roncalli was a dream come true for her. She loved this ministry and the students and faculty loved her inspirational presence. To this day, Roncalli still remembers her impact with the Norma Jean Borman Award for Outstanding Service.

In the late 1980s, Norma was diagnosed as having breast cancer. After surgery and chemotherapy, things seemed to go better for a while, but then her cancer metastasized and she returned to chemotherapy. She continued teaching at Roncalli until her death on December 26, 1990.

HOPE, the Salvatorian Newsletter, Vol 70, No. 2, 1991, wrote the following about her at the time of her death, "There are people who demonstrate leadership in one area of life. Then there are others who evince this quality in everything they do. Such a person was Norma Jean Borman. Norma Jean was a teacher, counselor, office worker, campus minister, CCD instructor, and vice president of the police auxiliary (her husband Jim is a detective with Manitowoc, WI Police Department). Most importantly, she was mother to four, including teenage twin sons. ....Still, we know that people are more than what they do, no matter how busy and involved, or quiet and unassuming, their lives may seem. It was her all-encompassing faith in our Savior which gave ultimate meaning to Norma Jean's daily activity. Everything she did she did out of love, her heart and mind forever attuned to the purpose defined by Father Francis Jordan: 'So that all may know the Savior'. We salute Norma Jean, and we miss her. ...Blessed are we all whose lives she touched."

We celebrate Norma Jean for her commitment, vision, and goodness.

*(Thank you to Sister Beverly Heitke SDS for her work on this article)*