



*Necrology of*  
**SISTER JEANNE-D'ARC POIRIER**  
(Sister Jeanne-d'Arc-Marie)

**1922 – 2021**

Many refer to July 25<sup>th</sup> as Christmas in July. Thus it was for the Poirier family in 1922 as God gifted them with their second daughter. Her parents, Louis Poirier and Leona (Cotnoir) Poirier, were grateful for such a gift. The next day at Notre Dame in Southbridge, Rose Jeanne-d'Arc became a child of God. Their first daughter, Helene, was already a few years old. Later, Leo and Theresa would complete the happy family. The bond forged early on and strengthened throughout their lives, was one of deep affection for and attention to one another. The family enjoyed life among the numerous Franco-American families living in Southbridge. The American Optical, often referred to as the AO Eyeware, had opened in 1869. Many inhabitants from Quebec looking for work established themselves in Southbridge, MA.

The general atmosphere within the Poirier family was one of joy and thoughtfulness. As a solid Catholic family, the evening prayer and the rosary were recited after supper. All attended the Marian devotions during the months of May and October as well as the Novena to Sainte Anne in July. Only illness excused anyone from attending.

Jeanne-d'Arc's father was born in Taunton, MA, and moved to Southbridge in his early years. On a trip to Quebec he met a woman from St. Robert, comptée Richelieu. She would soon become his wife. Married in St. Robert, they immediately established themselves in Southbridge, MA. Mr. Poirier, a cheerful man, loved to sing from La Bonne Chanson, work outside, garden and take long walks for relaxation. He supported his family by working at the AO that employed more than two thousand workers.

To meet Jeanne-d'Arc's mother would be to converse with a tall, gracious and educated lady. Before her marriage, she was a French teacher in a private school in Sorel, PQ. Thus, the education of her children was vital. Mrs. Poirier was also an excellent cook, a good seamstress and a meticulous housekeeper. Later in life, she did substitute teaching at Notre Dame School.

Jeanne-d'Arc attended Notre Dame School from grades one through eight, and Notre Dame Academy from grades nine through twelve. She was a docile and receptive child who admired the devotion of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. She already desired to follow in their footsteps. Upon finishing high school, Jeanne-d'Arc worked as a secretary at the AO for a few years. She then fulfilled the desire so long carried in her heart.

In the winter of 1944, Jeanne-d'Arc travelled to Nicolet, Quebec to become a Sister of the Assumption of the B.V. She was following her older sister, Helene, who had already professed her vows within the Congregation. Being the only American to enter at that time, Jeanne-d'Arc feared feeling out of place in a setting unfamiliar to her. As soon as she experienced the charitable hospitality of her Canadian sisters, her worries were dispelled.

After pronouncing her vows in 1946, and beginning her ministry as an educator, her lifelong dream became a reality. In Salem, MA, the school community was the first to experience her loving and kind presence. Her aim was to exemplify the love of Jesus and guide young hearts to believe in her caring and tender God. Throughout her nearly five decades as a teacher, principal or superior,

Sister Jeanne-d’Arc not only radiated a kindness that attracted many, but also inspired them to imitate her goodness. Such was her influence that many kept in contact with her well into her senior years. She trustingly accepted many responsibilities and diligently accomplished her duties. Many admired her gracious hospitality, her radiant smile and her acceptance of each one as a unique child of God.

Early in her seventies, Sister Jeanne-d’Arc’s eyesight was diminishing and becoming progressively worse. In spite of this difficulty, she never complained and simply used stronger light and magnifying glasses. It was at that time that she assumed the leadership role among the elderly sisters in Petersham Always ready to serve, Sister Jeanne-d’Arc’s compassion, discretion and prayerfulness enriched the lives of her sisters. Her sense of humor and sound judgment also enhanced their lives. Simplicity, availability, attentiveness to others and to detail, and a total giving of self best characterized the life of Sister Jeanne-d’Arc.

The last ten years of Sister Jeanne d’Arc’s life were joyfully lived in Marlborough among the Sisters of Ste. Chrétienne whom she dearly loved. She was a cherished member of their community.

Sister Jeanne d’Arc welcomed the New Year with Hope. With that prayer in her heart, she went to meet her God a few hours later to deliver this plea personally.

Sister Jeanne d’Arc, your lifelong admiration of all things beautiful has grown due to your deep prayer life and your complete trust in the One you love. Today, you are enjoying the fullness of God’s marvelous creation: sunrises, sunsets, stars, oceans with lighthouses, mountains, flowers, fall colors, the new fallen snow, rainbows. May you receive the reward you so richly deserve for a life of simplicity and of service. May the loving God so real to you throughout your life embrace you eternally.

**“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve”**

**Matt 10:45**

January 2021  
Lucille Y. Roy, SASV  
Necrologiste



## LES SŒURS DE L'ASSOMPTION DE LA SAINTE VIERGE

### Sœur JEANNE-D'ARC POIRIER

<b>Rang</b>	1965	<b>Engagement</b>	Enseignante	<b>Onction des malades</b>	2020-11-02
<b>Nom civil</b>	Poirier, Jeanne-d'Arc	<b>Entrée</b>	1944-02-02	<b>Nom du prêtre</b>	Dinh Vo Tran, AA ptre
<b>Nom religieux</b>	Jeanne-d'Arc-Marie	<b>Vœux temporaires</b>	1946-08-15	<b>Lieu et heure</b>	Rés. Sainte Chrétienne
<b>Père</b>	Poirier, Louis	<b>Vœux perpétuels</b>	1949-08-15	<b>Date des funérailles</b>	(Date ultérieure)
<b>Mère</b>	Cotnoir, Léona	<b>Date du décès</b>	2021-01 02	<b>Président</b>	---
<b>Naissance</b>	1922-07-25	<b>Heure du décès</b>	05 h 00	<b>Heure</b>	---
<b>Lieu</b>	Southbridge, MA	<b>Lieu du décès</b>	Marlboro, MA	<b>Lieu des funérailles</b>	---
<b>Baptême</b>	1922-07-26	<b>Âge au décès</b>	98 ans, 5 m., 8 jrs	<b>Inhumation</b>	Cemetery ASV Petersham le 6 janvier à 14 h.
<b>Lieu du baptême</b>	Southbridge, MA	<b>Années en religion</b>	74 ans, 4 m., 18 j.		

LIEUX D'ENGAGEMENT	ENGAGEMENT PROFESSIONNEL	ANNÉES
Salem (Mass) # 76	Titulaire en 6 <sup>e</sup> année	1946-1947
Lowell, Santa Maria (Mass) # 125	Enseignante en 1 <sup>re</sup> et 2 <sup>e</sup> années	1947-1949
Chicopee Falls (Mass) # 88	Enseignante en 2 <sup>e</sup> et 3 <sup>e</sup> années ; à partir de janvier : enseignante en 3 <sup>e</sup> année	1949-1950
Chicopee Falls (Mass) # 88	Enseignante en 2 <sup>e</sup> et 3 <sup>e</sup> années	1950-1951
Chicopee Falls (Mass) # 88	Enseignante en 3 <sup>e</sup> et 4 <sup>e</sup> années	1951-1952
Spencer (Mass) # 21	Titulaire en 2 <sup>e</sup> année	1952-1957
Glens Falls (NY) # 42	Titulaire en 1 <sup>re</sup> année	1957-1959
Glens Falls (NY) # 42	Titulaire en 6 <sup>e</sup> année	1959-1961
Glens Falls (NY) # 42	Titulaire en 7 <sup>e</sup> année	1961-1962
Glens Falls (NY) # 42	Supérieure locale – Directrice de l'école – Titulaire en 7 <sup>e</sup> année	1962-1963
Glens Falls (NY) # 42	Supérieure locale – Directrice de l'école – Titulaire en 8 <sup>e</sup> année	1963-1966
Chicopee Falls (Mass) # 88	Supérieure locale – Directrice de l'école	1966-1967
Chicopee Falls (Mass) # 88	Titulaire en 8 <sup>e</sup> année	1967-1969
Lowell, St-Louis-de-France (Mass) # 40	Directrice de l'école élémentaire - Bibliothécaire	1969-1974
Chicopee Falls (Mass) # 88	Supérieure locale – Directrice de l'école	1974-1975
Salem (Mass) # 76	Supérieure locale – Enseignante en mathématiques à l'école élémentaire	1975-1977
Salem (Mass) # 76	Supérieure locale – Enseignante en français en 10 <sup>e</sup> année	1977-1979
Salem (Mass) # 76	Supérieure locale – Enseignante en français en 11 <sup>e</sup> année	1979-1981
Salem (Mass) # 76	Supérieure locale	1981-1983
Barton (Vt) # 41	Directrice de l'école Saint-Paul	1983-1985
Meriden (Conn) # 22	Superviseuse scolaire – Responsable des enfants de chœur	1985-1986
Laconia (NH) # 38	Titulaire en 4 <sup>e</sup> année – Secrétaire du programme de l'enseignement religieux	1986- 1988
Laconia (NH) # 38	Secrétaire et assistante du programme de l'enseignement religieux	1988- 1989
Chicopee Falls (Mass) # 88	Supérieure locale – Chroniqueuse – Services communautaires	1989- 1992
Petersham, Rés. Assomption # 145	Animatrice des sœurs âgées	1992- 1997
Petersham, Rés. Assomption # 145	Animatrice d'une petite communauté – Services communautaires	1997- 2003
Petersham, Rés. Assomption # 145	Animatrice d'un Cercle de communion – Services communautaires	2003-2005
Petersham, Rés. Assomption # 145	Services communautaires	2005-2010

<b>Marlboro, Sisters of St. Chrétienne (Mass)</b>	Ministère de la prière	2010-2021