

**SISTER MARIE DE LOURDES DAVENPORT, OSF  
1924 - 2016**



Sister Marie de Lourdes (Bertha Louise) was born on May 14, 1924, in Peoria, Illinois, the only child of Jesse D. and Frances E. (Miller) Davenport. A convert to Catholicism, she was baptized at St. Paul Church, Burlington, Iowa, on June 15, 1944.

Bertha attended elementary and high school in Roseville, Illinois, graduating in 1943. After graduation, she entered Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Burlington, Iowa. She received her Diploma in Nursing in 1946, and her R.N. in 1947. She held nursing certification for Iowa and Illinois.

Bertha attended Mount St. Clare College after entering the congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis at Clinton, Iowa, on September 8, 1948. She received the name Marie de Lourdes at her reception June 20, 1949. She made her first profession on August 12, 1951, and her final profession on August 13, 1954. Her novitiate classmates were Sisters Mary Paul Hummer, Karlene Hughes, Rosalie Noder and Michelle Cale and Eleanore Birmingham Kilcoyne.

Sister Marie de Lourdes ministered in the health care field for 28 years. In Clinton, she served at the former Mount Alverno Home for the Aged in 1951-1952. For fifteen years, she served as a general duty nurse in health care facilities then owned and staffed by the Clinton Franciscan congregation; St. Francis Hospital, Grinnell, Iowa; Mercy Hospital, Burlington, Iowa; and St. Francis Hospital, Macomb, Illinois. In 1967, she was assigned to Freeport, Grand Bahama, in the Bahama Islands where she served in public health nursing until retiring from active nursing duty in 1979. She returned to Mount St. Clare Convent and served for more than 20 years as driver for Sisters living in Clinton.

She moved with her Franciscan sisters to their new residence, The Canticle, in 1997 and retired there in 2003 where she greeted people and answered the phone in the reception office. In her spare time she enjoyed reading, playing games, and putting together jigsaw puzzles.

Sister Marie de Lourdes died at the Alverno on August, 31, 2016, after a short illness.

She was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by the members of her Clinton Franciscan Family.