



Sister Leo Veronica Cassotta, SC
Entered eternal life on November 19, 2021

Leonora Anne Cassotta, Lee, Sister Leo Veronica, Sister Leo, Aunt Lee. No matter by which name you knew her, you knew a very special person.

She was born in New Jersey on September 6, 1929. According to Mom, she was a tomboy from the beginning. She liked to climb trees, fix cars, and help her father build things. She adored her family and would do anything for them. She loved her sister unconditionally and equally her brother-in-law even though they incessantly picked on each other. She hated household chores such as cleaning and cooking – even as she got older she let others do those jobs.

Aunt Lee entered the Sisters of Charity on April 2, 1949. This story always intrigued me as I was told she went that day to accompany her friend Dee who was entering and not her. I've never gotten all the details about the day, but somehow Dee didn't stay and Aunt Lee did. God definitely knew what He was doing that day though. I don't know another person more dedicated to God and her calling. She was the best teacher as so many of her former students kept in touch with her through cards, phone calls, and visits. She is the teacher who inspired me to enter the education world and although I didn't enter the convent to "take her place" as she would always say, I think she was proud that I became a teacher.

From the stories I've heard, Aunt Lee was the life of the party. She could always make a room full of people laugh. Competitive is an understatement – she never let us win and she sometimes went to the extremes of making up her own rules just so we couldn't. I think that runs in the Cassotta family and honestly I guess I get like that too. As she got older, she certainly enjoyed her games of BINGO and was always willing to share her winnings. Aunt Lee loved her Yankees and knew more than most about their history.

What I remember the most about Aunt Lee is when she came to visit during the summer. Sometimes that just meant she and I would work on jigsaw puzzles non-stop, sometimes it meant I had to share my bed with her in the camper, and other times it meant she would buy me something special to remember the trip, like my moccasin doll from New Mexico.

Later when I moved to Baltimore, I enjoyed visiting Aunt Lee in Jersey City or in Morristown – sometimes by myself, sometimes with Paul, Lauren and family and sometimes with her adoptive family, my friend Wendy and her kids. Each trip was full of fun and laughter the entire time and always a "When are you coming back?" before you even left.

Each trip also included organizing Aunt Lee's things and taking home all the things that she won or bought for us. Love that kitten Christmas sweatshirt (I think Paul still wears that each Christmas). We all know he was her favorite! I think I obtained every candle that any student ever gave her! I tried to always take a box of things that I liked so that it wouldn't clutter her area. We also decorated with pictures, which was helpful as she got older, to help her to remember everyone.

Aunt Lee is at a new party now with all our friends and family who have gone before us. She will be missed.

Leanne Voos,
Sister Leo Veronica's niece