Lona Jean was born in Tarsus, North Dakota to Doris Bergeron and Leo Fugere. She attended grade school and high school in Bottineau County, ND and received a Teaching Certificate from Minot State Teachers College. She returned to school in 1982 and graduated as a Registered Nurse from the Trinity School of Nursing. She worked at the Trinity Medical Center for four years before moving to Mesa, Arizona in 1986.


After moving to Mesa, Lona Jean worked at Mesa Lutheran Hospital. She also served on many health-related volunteer committees, including the Diabetes Committee, American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society.

She was a member of Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Mesa where she taught CCD, worked in the Church library, served as a lector and worked on the Stewardship committee. Lona Jean became acquainted with Salvatorians at Queen of Peace and made her commitment on June 17, 1995, just a few short weeks before she died.

The essence of Lona Jean is captured by her granddaughter, Jeanne Bratvold, who wrote this about year before Lona Jean’s passing. “A Friend in Deed: The stereotypical grandmother is usually a large, boisterous, talkative, and all around friendly and helpful older lady. All of these characteristics are in my loving grandmother and more, she is very generous, giving of herself more than the normal person because she knows what it is like to not have anything. My grandma is one of my best friends. I’ll go to her with anything I need to talk about and whenever I need help with something be it homework or guy troubles. She is really easy to talk to and she is a very good listener when she knows that is the best way to help. It is not just me she listens to; it is anyone who comes to her in need of a shoulder to cry on or an ear to listen to any sort of problem.”

Lona Jean has left her mark on all who knew her. May she rest in peace.