

Eulogy...Sr. Catherine McShane

Sr. Catherine McShane was born in Co. Longford, the fourth in a family of six. She proudly styled herself as the protector of her youngest sister Teresa, who is Sr. Teresa, DMJ.

From her earliest years Catherine was a high achiever. She had already achieved the skill of producing a mouth watering; delectable soup (would not part with the recipe). And of course, there was her skill at crochet and knitting... marvelous productions. These were certainly assets for her future life.

But the Lord had His plans. Catherine was approached by a member of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, a religious Order with schools in California. Would she be interested in joining with this group? Catherine's YES took her to Belgium for preparation, and to California for the beginning of a lifetime ministry, teaching in CA schools.

For those of us who lived with Catherine over the years, we remember a DMJ with high principles, determination, a kind and loving heart. She ministered in St. Augustine's, Our Lady of Peace, Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Anthony's, and St. Jerome's schools. She also served in DMJ provincial government. While in St. Jerome's she helped in introducing a new phase of education, computer! And she was helped in that endeavor by an 8th grade student. This phase of life covered the years 1950's to 1970's approximately.

Now we are in a new phase...we move to New Mexico with Catherine; here she taught and was principal in Albuquerque and Socorro. Catherine loved being in New Mexico and she continued her connection after she returned to Los Angeles. One family brought her a supply of special yarn for her projects.

After this very full life of many activities, Catherine extended her energy and expertise to Nazareth House, Cheviot Hills, as Director of Admissions for a period of 14 years. Here, she brought the love and kindness of Jesus to all the elderly, especially aging priests, as they approached death.

Final retirement: In 2014 Catherine retired to our Marian Residence, to knit and crochet to her heart's content, as she said. But one more piece had to be completed, a bedspread. We, DMJs, kept reminding her...and the Spread was completed...and was eventually raffled and won by a very happy family. The proceeds were used to support our ministries in Africa.

On Nov. 24, a number of us DMJs were at Catherine's bedside, keeping vigil with soft words and touch, knowing she was dying, going to meet the Lord. We were so touched by the presence of members of St. John of God Medical staff, attending to Catherine in her last moments. It was very obvious that Jesus was there waiting for her and welcoming her.

In our chapel we have a lovely picture of Catherine, smiling ...she is still with us ...loving us, waiting for us.