



Born to New Life

Sister Clare Riccardelli, MPF



Sister Clare Riccardelli, 83, entered eternal life peacefully on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at University Medical Center, Newark, New Jersey, after a brief illness.

Sister Clare was born and raised in Orange, New Jersey. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on June 30, 1947, and received the religious habit on September 5, 1948. On September 2, 1951, she made her final religious profession.

Sister Clare was awarded a BS degree in Elementary Education and a Masters Degree in Elementary Education from Seton Hall University. Sister ministered in the Archdioceses of Newark, New Jersey; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and in the Dioceses of Providence, Rhode Island; Trenton, Paterson, Metuchen, Camden, New Jersey; and Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Although Sister Clare enjoyed teaching for many years, her thirty years as a principal was where she made her mark. Her assignments as principal included: Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pompton Plains, New Jersey; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Jersey City, New Jersey; and Saint Francis Xavier, Newark, New Jersey. No one could fault Sister Clare's dedication and positive energy. While at Saint Francis, Sister even assisted weekly at Bingo because she knew the income helped the school she loved so much to survive.

During her last three years of retirement, (2013-2016) Sister Clare still remained active. She assisted at Good Shepherd Academy, Nutley, New Jersey, and served as the Director of Religious Education at Saint Anthony Parish, Belleville, New Jersey. Sister Clare loved to serve and everyone who knew Sister Clare appreciated her pleasant, dedicated and positive attitude.

Sister Clare was the recipient of the Jubilee Medal, Pro Meritis for distinguished service within the Archdiocese of Newark in 1994. She was appointed by Cardinal McCarrick to serve on the Archdiocesan Commission for the celebration of the Jubilee Year 2000.

Rev. Joseph Ferrara, celebrant at the Mass of Christian Burial, honored Sister Clare with so many admirable examples of her life. Among them he praised her:

"We have heard some beautiful readings today, and they truly reflect the life of Sister Clare. At the young age of fifteen, she entered the Maestre Pie Filippini. She began an adventure of touching the lives of children, living and sharing her faith, and her knowledge as a teacher, a principal, a director of religious education, a friend as well as the faithful Bingo volunteer to secure her school financially in order to remain open. Sister Clare used her God-given talents wisely as she worked with her pastors, superiors, teachers and volunteers and most especially her students. She was the life of every party and celebration. Everyone truly appreciated her dedication to her work and especially her pleasant and positive attitude. All that she accomplished, she did for the honor and glory of God."

Because of Sister Clare's sudden and unexpected passing, very easily one could concentrate on the misfortune of her life's ending. In her eulogy, however, Sister Ascenza chose to focus on the blessings of her life, blessings of family, friends, a fruitful and joy-filled apostolate and her many positive attributes.

These are the final words Sister Ascenza shared:

We leave here today, then, thanking God for all the blessings bestowed on Sister Clare. Let us count the blessings of this day and not the crosses, and not the losses...because today Sister Clare enters eternal life..."

