

**SISTER JANE McNULTY**  
**April 12, 1918 - April 23, 2006**

“You are the salt of the earth,” Jesus tells us in the fifth chapter of Matthew’s Gospel. “You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before all that they may see your good works and give glory to God.”

These words of Jesus come almost immediately to mind when we think of Sister Jane. She was down-to-earth, real, always herself. A true Sister of Charity, the salt of the earth. Because of her deep love for God, and in her humble way, she brought the light of Christ to all.

Sister Jane grew up in Pittsburgh on Fifth Avenue, three blocks from Sacred Heart Parish. Her father, Michael McNulty, was an important consultant to Father Thomas Coakley in the building of the magnificent Sacred Heart Church. Jane was one of four children in the family of Michael and Sophia McNulty: James, Michael, Jane, and Kay. Sister Jane attended Sacred Heart Elementary and High Schools, and spent a year at Seton Hill College before entering the Sisters of Charity in 1936, and becoming Sister Mary Clement.

Sister Mary Clement loved all things in nature, especially animals, so it was a good choice that she become a biology teacher, earning Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in biology and chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. She taught for forty-seven years in many schools, spending the greatest number of years at Johnstown Catholic (now Bishop McCort) High School, Greensburg Central Catholic High School (in its early years), and Sacred Heart High School. As the years went by, Sister Jane moved to part-time teaching, then to part-time secretarial work at SS. Peter and Paul Church in East Liberty, then to volunteering at Ronald McDonald House and at the East End Cooperative Ministry.

Throughout her life Sister Jane exhibited life and spirit, kindness and generosity, dedication and love.

Sister Jane was a caring, compassionate daughter, sister and aunt to members of her family. During the thirty-six years Sister Jane’s mother lived after the death of her husband, Sister Jane was companion and later loving care-giver to her mother. Sister Jane loved her brothers and sister, nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. She spoke of you often and cared so much about you.

An excellent teacher, Sister Jane required the best, especially from her advanced students. She loved to go into the woods to gather mosses for her classroom terrarium. She understood and appreciated the wonder of God’s world. During her years in the high schools, Sister Jane became involved in local and county student council organizations, training young people in leadership.

She was a wonderful person to have on a high school faculty. She would help plan the parties - and enjoy them - but she was often able to slice through an argument or controversy with a new insight or creative comment.

It was a gift to have Sister Jane in a local convent. My first memory of her occurred January 4, 1953, when I, as a postulant, had been sent to Our Lady of Mercy in Johnstown. It was cold and snowy and I didn't know what to expect. Suddenly, the front door burst open and Sister Jane and Sister Jude Thaddeus O'Donnell came in, laughing and calling, "We're home! We're home! We're home!" Sister Jane truly was "at home" as a Sister of Charity. She was a vibrant part of the house. Even in later years she was chosen Sister Servant at Sacred Heart Convent which then numbered about 30 Sisters.

In case you haven't figured it out, Sister Jane had a great sense of humor and liked to have a good time. She enjoyed traveling, usually accompanied by her good friend, Sister Marie Estelle Copeland. They went anywhere and everywhere - just to relax and be refreshed. Sometimes Sister Jane would take a group of Sisters to her sister Kay's cabin near Emlenton, Pennsylvania, and they would talk, laugh, hike in the woods, and enjoy living. Sister Jane was so humble she could be open to anything, whether it was travel, or helping students with science projects, or working in a rectory, or, here at Caritas Christi, knitting for the poor.

Through all the years, through all the work, the prayers, the joy, Sister Jane kept her eyes on her one light – Jesus Christ – as she carried the word and the love of God to the young and to the old she met on her path.

It must have been for her, on Sunday in this Easter Season, as it was for the disciples who met Jesus on the Road to Emmaus. Surely, our Sister Jane, a woman of joy, of generosity, of commitment, said with the two disciples: "Did not my heart burn within me all these years? I knew Him many times in the breaking of the Bread, the Bread of the Eucharist and the Bread of daily life. And I shared Him with so many others through the years." And Jesus must have said, on this second Sunday of the Easter Season, "Come, Jane, blessed of my Father, share the heavenly home I have prepared for you."

*Funeral Liturgy Reflection  
Sister Brigid Marie Grandey  
April 26, 2006*

