

SISTER M. MYRA YEAGER
April 3, 1918 - September 30, 2005

Letters written to Mother Claudia:

“She impresses me as being an exceedingly good girl—beautifully virtuous in her conduct and refined in her ways. Her nobility of purpose and her eagerness to serve God in religion are apparent.”

Reverend N.T. Bouschere
Mercy Hospital - Toledo, Ohio

“...It is more difficult for an older person to embrace the routine and discipline of a religious rule but I think that she is sincere and would make a good religious.”

Reverend Richard J. Habel
March 20, 1944 (28)

Loretta May Yeager, who was known in the Sisters of Charity as Sister M. Myra Yeager, loved me and you and all with whom she came in contact during her earthly journey. Sister Myra's journey began on April 3, 1918, when she was born to parents Edward and Loretta May Degnan in Toledo, Ohio. Sister Myra had two sisters, Mary Edna and Adeline Gouttiere from Maumee, Ohio. We all know and heard Sister Myra speak of Maumee. Sister Myra experienced the loss of her parents when she was young. She was nine when her father died and twenty-five when her mother died. Sister Myra completed her education and entered the work world of various and sundry experiences. At this time, her faith journey continued to deepen and her search for religious life became a reality in 1944.

Sister Myra earned her degree from Seton Hill University and her journey continued in teaching throughout the west and the east. She taught at the following western schools and missions: Saint Peter and Paul, John the Evangelist, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Saint Mary, and Immaculate Conception in Ajo. In the east, she taught at the following schools: Resurrection, Saint John (South Side), and Immaculate Conception in Irwin. At this time, Sister Myra continued attending workshops, conferences, enriching herself and keeping abreast of current events. She even took classes on the Abacus in 1963, at Seton Hill. During the years 1975-1977, her ministry took a new turn when she was missioned, along with Sister Mary Callista and Sister M. Reynita, to Holy Trinity in Huntingdon, PA to provide CCD instruction to the children of the following parishes: Most Holy Trinity, (Huntingdon), Saint Catherine (Mount Union), and Saint Mary (Shade Gap).

In 1986, Sister Myra arrived at Saint James in Wilkinsburg ready to assume any responsibility given to her. She immediately began in the school providing special services as the coordinator of audio visual equipment. Here is where the seed to her interest in the computer was planted. The Ladies of Charity were a special group under her influence; they provided for the needy, and nurtured their prayer lives reflecting Sister Myra's example. Sister Myra sent birthday cards to all: parishioners, sisters, friends. She was gentle, loving, prayerful, obedient, generous, and proud to be a Sister of Charity. In 1996, we celebrated Sister Myra's 50th anniversary at Seton Hill. Wow, what a day! The Ladies of Charity from Saint James, along with all the sisters and friends, arrived for THE DAY and indeed it truly was one to remember.

Sister Myra moved to a temporary residence on the South Side while Caritas Christi was being built. I found Sister Myra the same, always enjoying the company of others and experiencing contentment in playing cards, sending and receiving greeting cards. Sister Myra loved her family and we heard of Thomas Gouttierre, her nephew and godson and his wonderful accomplishments at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. How proud she was!

Then came the big day when Sister Myra arrived at Caritas Christi. Her enthusiasm continued with the "Nuns on the Net" (See *Celebration 2001*) going as far as e-mailing her congressman to seek debt relief for the poor nations. In reflecting on Sister Myra's accomplishments and activities, including her involvement in the Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild, founded in 1948, by Mother M. Claudia Glenn, I believe we have come full circle.

Reverend Bouschere ended his letter of recommendation for Loretta Yeager to Mother Claudia with these words. "*With earnest, heartfelt prayers to her who, on the first Annunciation Day, spoke those memorable words: Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to thy word,*" I present Loretta to you for your thoughtful consideration. Respectfully yours in Christ and Mary.

And so, we too, present Sister Myra Yeager, who answered her call to be a Sister of Charity of Seton Hill, and who completed her mission, September 30, 2005.

*Funeral Liturgy Reflection
Sister Thomas Joseph Gaines
October 3, 2005*