



Sister Kathleen Cleary  
1940 - 2021

Kathleen Irene Cleary was born October 23, 1940, in Columbus, Ohio, the eldest of the twelve children of Patrick Joseph and Ruth Mae (Ware) Cleary. She was baptized at Holy Name Church, Columbus, Ohio, on November 24, 1940. She had three brothers, Patrick, Philip John, and Anthony Edward, and eight sisters, Mary Nell, Marjorie, Charla, Teresa, Sheila, Ruth Ann, Molly, and Emma Lucretia.

She entered the Sisters of St. Francis at Mount St. Clare Convent, Clinton, Iowa, on September 8, 1958, and received the name Mary Philip at her reception on June 15, 1959. She later resumed her baptismal name. She made her first profession on August 12, 1961, and her final profession on August 12, 1964. Among her novitiate classmates were Sisters Paschal Hocum, Shawn Kelley, Evelyn McKenna, Judith McKenna, Mary Ann Phelan, and Dorothy Mae Stolmeier.

She completed elementary, middle, and the first two years of high school at Catholic schools in Colorado prior to graduating from Mount St. Clare Academy in 1958. After completing course work at Mount St. Clare College, and taking summer courses at Creighton University, she received a B.A. in Elementary Education at Marycrest College, Davenport, Iowa. She later completed a Master of Arts degree in Religious Education at The University of Seattle, Seattle, Washington, and a Master of Science degree in Counseling & Psychology from California Baptist University, Riverside, California. She held an Iowa Professional Teaching Certificate.

Sister Kathleen began her ministry as a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at St. Mary's School in Carrollton, Missouri, where she served from 1961-69, and was director of the Mount St. Clare Preschool for the next eight years. For the remainder of her active ministry, Sister

Kathleen was missioned in California. She taught primary grade students at St. Margaret Mary School in Chino, California, from 1978-86, and then ministered at St. Catherine of Alexandria School in Riverside from 1988-93. She returned to Chino in 1993 and served as librarian at St. Margaret Mary School for the next twenty-six years. For several of those years, she also held the positions of school counselor and assistant principal.

Sister Kathleen retired at The Canticle in November 2019 and moved to The Alverno in July 2020. She continued to minister to everyone around her through her cheerful spirit, her positive attitude, and her openness to all she met.

Sister Kathleen was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Charla; her brother-in-law, Robert Holmes; as well as her great-aunts Clinton Franciscans Sister Brendan, Sister Winefride, and Mother Regis Cleary.

She is survived by her brothers, Patrick (Chris), Philip John (Jill), and Anthony Edward (Joyce) Cleary; and her sisters, Mary Nell Cleary, Marjorie Holmes, Teresa Margiotti, Sheila (Gary) Saxton, Ruth Ann (Thomas) Marsh, Molly Cleary, and Emma Lucretia Foster; nieces and nephews; and the Sisters of St. Francis with whom she shared life for over 62 years.