



Sister Marie C. Tansey, SC

Entered eternal life on March 29, 2024

Marie Catherine Tansey, the daughter of Francis J. Tansey and Catherine Nealon was born on May 24, 1934, in Irvington, NJ and was baptized on June 10, 1934, in Sacred Heart Church, Vailsburg, Newark.

Marie, being the first born, was later blessed with one brother, Francis Joseph Jr. and two sisters Rosemary and Catherine Teresa. Cathe, the youngest and sole survivor is here with us celebrating this beautiful Liturgy of Resurrection.

The Tansey children received a solid foundation in their faith filled home along with their Catholic education at Sacred Heart School in Vailsburg and Marylawn of the Oranges

High School with the Sisters of Charity. Marie graduated from Marylawn High School in June 1951 and entered the Sisters of Charity the following October 1.

At the conclusion of her canonical year as a novice, Marie now Sister Ancilla Mary, made her first profession of vows and soon, thereafter, began her active ministry, first as a teacher in several of our elementary schools, but later she was called to serve in hospital ministry.

Although Marie began her hospital assignment as a Certified Licensed Medical Technologist at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Paterson and later served at Martland Medical Center, most of her hospital experience was in Pastoral Care as a Certified Chaplain at several hospitals including Trinitas Medical Center in Elizabeth. Her pastoral ministry also included the House of Prayer at Xavier Center and Saint Antoninus Parish in Newark.

Sister Marie's pastoral care and compassion for the sick was also evident on a personal level with several visits to her longtime friend, Sister Anne Veronica, a patient at Saint Anne Villa. Vacation time for Marie was enjoying time at the shore with family and friends, gardening when convenient, especially growing tomato plants.

Like many of us, Marie was a Jeopardy fan who could give many correct answers. She also enjoyed reading the comics in the Sunday newspapers. Her favorite ones were Pickles and Momma.

As Sister Marie advanced in years, she suffered from poor vision which eventually led to her retirement from hospital ministry. It was shortly after that time, one evening as she and I were coming out of CVS in Elizabeth, a man in a wheelchair approached us and with joyful excitement called to Marie, "Do you remember me? I'm Jimmy, you prayed with me when I was in the hospital." I was so touched by that encounter that I shared the story and continue to share that story to this day. I thought "This is only one of hundreds of patients with whom Sister Marie

prayed, brought the Eucharist to, consoled and yes, probably cried with, during their painful and grieving hospital experiences. How many other Jimmys are there?

As Marie's vision worsened, she asked to be admitted to Saint Anne Villa. While at the Villa, she shared her lovely singing voice as a choir member. She later transferred to Saint Joseph's Healthcare Center in Cedar Grove where her vision continued to worsen. Sister Marie accepted that with patient resignation until her death.

During these final years of her life, Marie was blessed with the presence of her sister Cathe's frequent visits to Saint Joseph's. Cathe was always faithful to Marie and Marie loved her dearly and was always proud of her accomplishments. Cathe, may God always bless you for your loving faithfulness to Marie.

Finally, our prayer for Marie who suffered the loss of her vision is that she will live in the joy of the Beatific Vision of the Most Holy Trinity for all eternity.

Sister Marie Charitina Frabizio, SC