

Sister Ann Stango, SC

Entered eternal life on February 5, 2025



Sister Ann Stango was born in Waterbury, CT, the daughter of Armand and Helen (O'Connor) Stango. She entered the SCs on September 6, 1955.

Ann was a force to be reckoned with. I first met Ann when I was missioned at St. John Cathedral High School. It was my first-year teaching teens and Ann really mentored me in how to work with them.

Ann at that time was known as S. Helen Cordis and she was a beloved Math teacher at St. John's and who could forget the shows she directed – *Up With People* is one that stands out for me.

She was getting her Master's Degree In Math at Boston College and I was sent to BC to study for a Master's Degree in Latin. I had two wonderful summers there. Ann needed a typist for her Master's thesis in Mathematics and I volunteered my Aunt Catherine! My Aunt told me that I owed her.

Ann's life is truly reflected in our readings today – she was a forceful advocate for those who were in any way oppressed - throughout her life she was engaged in social justice causes. The reading from Isaiah is cited in Luke's Gospel , Chap. 4 :18-19 and it is our Mission Statement as a Congregation. We say in *Toward Boundless Charity* , our Rule for our life “ Jesus Christ came” to bring the good news to the poor....to proclaim release to the captives, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor”. The mission of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth is to proclaim and live this Gospel of Jesus Christ.” Ann did that as a teacher, as a member of the parish team at St. Vincent Martyr in Madison, as a Spiritual Director and member of the Formation Staff at Theological College in Washington, DC, as a Director of Ministry Programs at the College of Saint Elizabeth, as Assistant to the President of the Hospital of St. Raphael for Mission Effectiveness, as VP for Mission at St. Joseph Hospital, Paterson and as staff member at St. Anthony's Hospital in St. Petersburg and at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa. I don't want to forget the years she spent as an Outreach staff person for Operation Extension, a ministry that was part of Our Lady of Victories Parish – for three years Ann lived with S. Patricia Brennan in the Christopher Columbus Housing Project in Paterson and worked on behalf of those who were in need networking with various social services available in the city and overseeing programs that were offered at the Multi-Cultural Center. It was thru this that she became a life-long friend of Msgr. Vincent Puma who was then Pastor of Our Lady of Victories Parish. Ann also served as General Secretary for the Congregation for one term from 1983-1987. Her life was a full one and amazing! She was a gift to so many in her varied ministries.

In 2010, a decision was made that Ann needed to return to New Jersey because of health concerns and she became a resident of St. Anne Villa. When we had to move from the Villa in 2021, Ann went to McAuley Hall in Watchung, and we are so very grateful for the care Ann received there.

Ann answered God's invitation, God's call to become a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and faithfully lived and ministered for these 69 years in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton. The Charism and Mission of Charity were alive in Ann. She knew that God is love as John said in our 2nd reading and extended herself to show God's love to all those she ministered to and with.

An only child, Ann had a great love for her family – esp. her cousins Connie and Patty and their families – and we are glad that Patty's daughter Cheryl is with us today. Ann had many friends who maintained contact with her over the years. Two long-time friends were Hattie Alexander and Ruth Overholser.

We give thanks for Ann's life as a Sister of Charity and we know that she was welcomed with open arms by our loving God. Ann may you know eternal rest and peace for your good deeds go with you.

S. Maureen Shaughnessy, SC