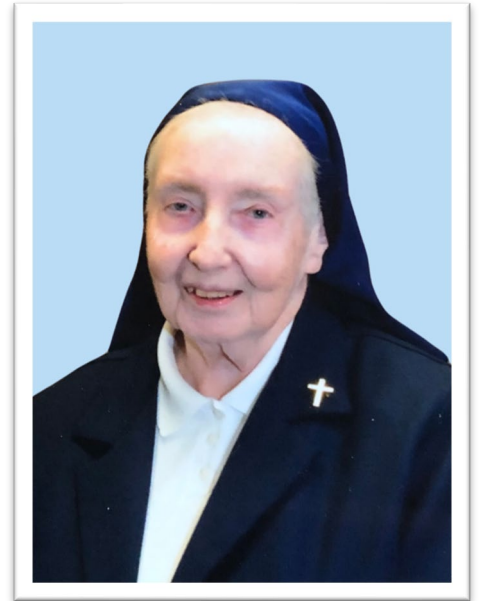


Sister Clare Mary Roden, SC
Entered eternal life on August 19, 2024

S. Clare Mary Roden, a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, would have celebrated her 75th anniversary on October 2nd, 2024. Born in Jersey City to Philip and Helen Roden, Clare was one of four children -the only daughter – Clare had three brothers: Joseph, Frederick, and Robert.

For many years, Clare was a teacher – 18 years in elementary schools in Newark, Paterson, and Jersey City and 20 years a teacher of English in high schools in Hoboken, Paterson, and Paramus. She was on the first Provincial Council for the Western Province and served as Supervisor of Schools for that Province. In the early 80s she began a new ministry - that of Director of Religious Education for Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish in Paramus, and St. James Parish in Totowa. Clare spent a number of years as a volunteer at St. Joseph Home for the Elderly in Totowa where both her brother and her mother had been residents. She herself became a resident there when the Little Sisters closed the Home in 2023. She then moved to Caldwell to St. Catherine of Siena Healthcare Center where she received wonderful care until her death on August 19th.



But those are facts most of which you would find in her obituary – who was S. Clare Mary? I lived with Clare as a young Sister at St. John’s in Paterson. I was starting my first experience of teaching in high school and she was a wonderful support and mentor to me. One of the adventures we had was that I was charged with teaching Clare to drive, so after school we drove up to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Totowa and Clare would practice driving in there – she felt safe doing that. I reminded her that she would be driving on open roads and highways in the not-too-distant future! I was greatly relieved when she passed her test. In the years that followed my contact with Clare was sporadic – we were in different Provinces and our paths didn’t cross frequently but we stayed in touch by phone and mail and was always glad when we could have a in person visit.

Clare was a gracious, generous woman who loved her family, her Congregation and all she engaged with in her ministries. She loved to be with others socially, especially her family and friends, who continued to be so supportive of her after her moves to the Villa, the Little Sisters, and St. Catherine’s.

Pat Dauer, who met S. Clare as a student at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Hoboken, was a faithful friend who visited her frequently. Pat said, “she touched the hearts of the many students and people she came in contact with during her life...she would always remember your birthday, sent cards to those who were sick, promising her prayer.”

Another dear friend, Joan McManus, said this “ During our many visits together, I would thoroughly enjoy hearing about her many ministries and missions, when asked what her favorite was, she said that is a good question, but I would say each was my favorite at the time I was there...Most of all I will remember her for genteel, lady-like demeanor at all times, who was most proud of being a Sister of Charity, who dearly loved her community, family, friends and the God she is now with.”

Clare was truly a woman who lived and expressed the Charism of Charity in her life every day. I, for one, am glad I shared some part of my life with her.

Now her nephew Marty will offer some words on behalf of the family.

S. Maureen Shaughnessy, SC