

## **Sister Jean Ruppel, SC**

Entered eternal life on June 2, 2026



It is a privilege for me to speak about Jean – we have three special connections: we attended OLV high school at the same time – she is slightly older than I; she served for many years in my home parish in WO and knew my family and extended family; and we worked together at Maris Stella for many years.

Sister Jean Ruppel (formerly Sister John Marie) was born on April 3, 1934, in East Orange, NJ to William and Mary Ruppel. She attended Blessed Sacrament School in East Orange and Our Lady of the Valley High School, Orange. She and I were Valley girls.

Sister Jean had one sibling, her beloved sister Mary Lou who died several years ago. We offer our condolences to her cousin Paul who is with us today.

Jean entered the Sisters of Charity on March 6, 1953, and professed her final vows on September 8, 1957. She attended the College (now University) of Saint Elizabeth with a degree in Social Studies and a minor in Elementary Education. Jean dedicated over 65 years of ministering to young people in elementary schools in Holy Name, EO, St. Anne, JC, St Thomas, Bloomfield, Sacred Heart, New Brunswick, Sacred Heart, Newark, St Peter, Belleville, and Our Lady of Lourdes, West Orange where she ministered to students for 24 years both in Our Lady of Lourdes school until it closed and then in Mount Carmel Guild Academy where she worked with special needs students.

Sister Jean was also involved for several years with the House of Prayer and ministered at Mother Seton Residence in Montclair for a few years.

These are some of the basic facts about Jean's life but there is so much more.

When I asked for words to describe Jean these are just some expressed: kind, gentle, caring, steadfast, shy, helper, generous with time, always in the background, service, enjoyable, and deep faith in God. She had a great ministry outreach-sending cards, letters, and making phone calls. She kept a book with the names and addresses of all of those to whom she wrote letters. I was one of the recipients of her many home-made cards, and her phone calls.

Jean and I reconnected in a special way at Maris Stella. She spent many summers as a volunteer and was present wherever there was a need – in the kitchen, dining area, sweeping the bath house but most especially caring for the roses at the side of Saint Vincent's – that was her special project using her small scissors. One of her favorite spots when on vacation with Peggy Nulty was sitting on the porch of the bath house reading and watching the comings and goings. Jean had many friends at Maris Stella and enjoyed their company especially when Margaret Roman took her to Barnegat Light to watch the sunset. Whenever there was a storm Sr. Pat D and I would always receive a phone call to see if we were all right. Jean was so thoughtful in her own quiet way, and we will miss her.

Sister Jean Ruppel was a woman of Charity and touched the lives of so many people. I especially want to mention a few from OLL (Eileen, Anne Marie and Mary Ellen) who reached out to her in so many ways, welcomed her into their families, took her to Star tavern for pizza and a can of "water"! and visited her when she moved to Convent and then Cedar Grove.

These last few years were difficult and a challenge for her. It has been a long journey for Jean, and we are grateful to all who cared for her.

Thank you to Fr. Jim Ferry pastor of OLL who is our celebrant today – for your many kindnesses to Sister Jean.

I will conclude my remarks with the quote from Timothy in today’s prayer service “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord – let them find rest from their labors for their good works accompany them.”

Farewell dear Jean – you were a gentle woman, loved nature, the seashore and people - may the angels welcome you to paradise.

~ Sister Mary Morley, SC