



Sister Jean Clare Rohe, OSF

Professed 1938

"One cannot educate without love."

Pope Francis



Sister Jean Clare Rohe died in Assisi House on May 16, 2022. She was 104 and the oldest member of the congregation. Sister Jean Clare was born Regina Catherine Rohe, the eldest of Genevieve and Joseph Rohe's nine children. The family lived near Baltimore on a small farm, where Regina Catherine loved helping to harvest vegetables for the table and market. She first came to know the Franciscans when she was a first grader at St. Joseph's School in Fullerton. Entering the congregation in 1935 and professing her first vows in 1938, she was a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 84 years. Her sister Ellen Patricia also became a sister of St. Francis, as did two first cousins.


Sister Jean Clare earned her Bachelor of Science in education and biology from Mount St. Mary's University and her Master of Science in biology, with minors in chemistry and physics, from Morgan State University. She ministered especially as a biology teacher and also taught religion and

English. Early in her ministry, she taught children as young as first graders. In her more than 60 years of teaching, Sister Jean Clare never missed a day of school. She loved her students, and they loved her.

For the first 14 years of her teaching ministry, Sister Jean Clare taught in the Archdiocese of Baltimore at Immaculate Conception School and at Saints Philip and James School. Later she taught in the archdiocese at Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School. After completing her teaching ministry and before moving to Assisi House, she ministered as a receptionist in the St. Anthony of Padua Rectory in Baltimore. In addition to her many years in the Baltimore area, Sister Jean Clare taught in the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware, at St. Paul School, Padua Academy, and St. John the Beloved School, where she was a middle-school coordinator.

For 23 years during the heart of her teaching ministry, Sister Jean Clare taught at The Catholic High School of Baltimore, where some of her students went on to become sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. Among these is Sister Pat Smith, who shares, "She knew her students, not just academically but also personally. I never heard her complain or speak of anyone in the negative. She embodied the spirit of Francis in her simplicity, hospitality, and ability to find goodness in all creation." Many express similar appreciation and fondness for Sister Jean Clare: "I always looked forward to her class and that twinkle in her eye," writes one former student. "I loved her as a wonderful teacher and person," writes another. And a Catholic High graduate agrees with countless others in saying, "She was one of my great joys at TCHS."

Thinking back over the years, Sister Jean Clare wrote, "All past memories as well as present moments are sweet—makes me feel grateful to family, friends, coworkers, students, and especially my Franciscan community. All have helped me tread lightly on the earth and experience so much goodness. As a follower of Francis and Clare, I tried to serve these many years with a gracious, gentle spirit—to travel in the footsteps of Francis because I know I've received abundantly." Using a lovely image to explain the blessings she felt, Sister Jean Clare said, "Look at the butterfly—that is like the beauty in my life, just going where the Lord leads and trusting in his love for me and for those I serve. Just being happy like the butterfly helps young people see Christ." She added, "I have truly loved my time with the students and believed I saw God in them." Her students, too, and everyone who knew Sister Jean Clare Rohe saw God in her and in the love radiating throughout all of the moments and years of her ministry and life.



*All services will be held in Assisi House on Monday, May 23, and will be livestreamed.
A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 A.M.
Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

