

Sister Mary Jeanne Flahaven, osf

Helen Ann was born in the farming community of Makoti, ND on March 4, 1931 to Thomas and Hazel Flahaven, the middle of 7 children. Helen Ann attended the Sisters of St. Francis Nursing School in Minot, ND beginning in 1948. In the middle of her education she entered the community of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity at Marycrest, located in Denver, Colorado and took the name Mary Jeanne. She was professed on August 15, 1952. After her profession she returned to Minot and finished nursing school, then went on to study for her Bachelors of Science in Nursing Education at St. Mary's in Xavier, Kansas. She graduated in 1958.

Sr. Jeanne then returned to Minot and immersed herself in her nursing ministry. She had a passion for children and pediatrics was her specialty, though her outreach to mothers, families and friends of the children was well known and these persons were always in her circle of care! She nursed in hospitals, in the community, and in camp settings; supervised, taught and extended herself to those who were on the margins and in the greatest need. Her desire to care for the vulnerable was well known and she lavished her love on many of God's children.

During her 62 years as a religious she served in nursing and in social services in Minot, ND; St. Francis Mission, SD; Scottsbluff, NE; O'Neill, NE; and Denver, CO. She shared herself through a healing ministry that touched an incredible number of persons. She walked with many people, especially women and children, and empowered, encouraged and taught them of God's all-encompassing love. She did this with ready laughter and a dry Irish wit!

The last 7 years of her life was spent at Harmony Pointe Nursing Center in Denver, CO where she received the tender care of those on staff. Under hospice care, Sr. Jeanne died on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 with one of her sisters praying with her. Her death was incredibly peaceful: her spirit was present in this world...then wrapped in God's love and taken home.

Sr. Jeanne's Funeral Mass was at the Archdiocese of Denver Mortuary on Tuesday, December 30th after the wake the evening before. Sr. Jeanne was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Denver, Colorado.