

## **Sister Joanne Killey**

January 25, 1924 - December 6, 2017

Joanne was a California girl, born January 25, 1924, to Thomas and Elizabeth Killey in Oakland, California, where she lived until the age of 21 when she joined the Catholic Church after a loving search for her loving God. She entered with our sisters at Mount Alverno, Sierra Madre, California, in 1947, where she eagerly embraced the adventure of working in the province as a nurse, for which she was already licensed. She was first professed August 18, 1950, at Mount Alverno and made profession of final vows on August 18, 1953. After a long life of faithful service to God and others, Joanne celebrated her 65th Jubilee in 2015.

Sister's work as a nurse took her to Sacred Heart Hospital in Havre, Montana; St. Francis Hospital in Lynwood, California; and the St. Francis School of Nursing in Minot, North Dakota; where she served as the director for five years. In June of 1965, Joanne became a missionary when she traveled to Orizabeta, Mexico, to open the Clinica de San Francisco, which served the poorest people there. It was during this time that she transferred in 1967 to Sacred Heart Province, Denver, Colorado, from St. Francis Province, Redwood City, California, and changed her religious name, Sr. Eucharía, back to her baptismal name.

Besides her nursing duties in other places, Joanne played an important role in the work of Queen of Peace Oratory on the Marycrest property in Denver, Colorado. It was there that her contemplative heart found a home in the prayer, work, and silence of that holy space. From 1974 until 1986, she offered retreats, spiritual direction, and served as the minister of the Oratory.

Joanne served as Provincial Secretary/Treasurer for the province during the terms of several Provincial Ministers from 1983 to 1991, and 1995 to 2003. She served on various province boards as secretary and graciously did anything that needed her organizational skills and talents. Although retired since 2003, she still worked three days a week at the Marycrest office editing and publishing the weekly Friday Update, a newsletter to the sisters and associates. Joanne had a passion for the preservation of our history and was knowledgeable of the Province Archives.

This great lady had the gift of deep contemplative prayer and laughter, a wonderful combination which made you feel inspired one minute and giggling the next about the silly little things that make life holy and joyful. She has been a blessing and gift for our sisters and all who knew her. She had endearing relationships with many family members, including many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Sr. Joanne spent the last several months in Sandalwood Manor, a long-term care unit near Denver, Colorado. She slipped away the morning of December 6, 2017, and made her way into the tender arms of the God she'd been in love with for so many decades! Her wake was at the Archdiocese of Denver Mortuary Chapel on Monday, December 11th and the Mass of the Resurrection was said at Holy Family Catholic Church on Tuesday, December 12th with sisters, friends, and members of her loving family attending. Sr. Joanne was buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Wheat Ridge, Colorado.