

Sister Mary Pierre McPhee, SC

Entered eternal life on May 6, 2020



On July 28, 1931, Mary McPhee was born to Peter and Mary McPhee in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, the third of six children. This was where Mary's story of a life of deep faith would begin. Her gentle, giving heart was formed within this loving family who fully supported her openness to God's call to religious life. After attending Saint Vincent Juniorate, Mary entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Charity on April 2, 1950.

Sister Mary Pierre's education prepared her for her many years of teaching, where she grew especially fond of the little ones, who benefited from her wisdom, joy, and gentle spirit. Then, when ministry directed her toward the education and care of special needs children at a residential school she embraced this new challenge with enthusiasm and love. Her quiet, gentle manner served to create peace and calm for children who desperately needed her and her unique personality.

After retiring from formal teaching and child care, Sister Mary began a new chapter of her journey by volunteering at both Xavier center and the Villa. Once again she approached these new ministries with enthusiasm and purpose. Her graciousness and peace were her gifts now shared with people of all ages.

Sister Mary's vocation as "teacher" continued even after she moved to Saint Joseph's Nursing Home in 2011, and it was at this time that I had the blessed privilege of getting to know her. From the beginning of her life and ministry there, I knew she was a woman who was authentic, kind, and unassuming. Every time I visited with Mary, she "taught" me more about peace, the grace of vulnerability, the joy of a simple smile, and the beauty of presence. How I wish I had known her longer!

While receiving the care provided at Saint Joseph's, Mary gracefully gave others the opportunity to give of their own gifts of compassion, love and service. Many others have been blessed and "taught" through caring for and knowing Mary.

During visits with Mary there was always love and laughter. When the Sisters gathered for a visit, Mary was present with her gentle spirit and beautiful smile. She had a unique gift of positive presence.

Mary's needs were simple. If we even thought of going to visit without candy (which we never did)..not just any candy...only chocolate, we may as well have gone home. We told this to Mary often, to which she responded "not true" as she unwrapped another Snickers bar. A shoulder massage would all but put her to sleep. She loved it! When she attended "Spa Day" during which volunteers gave manicures, Mary would always choose blue polish. She would smile as she returned to the all-purpose room waving her hands to show blue fingernails, knowing this was not her norm.

Sister Mary Pierre was a wonderful Sister of Charity who had no fancy titles, no need to be honored, no desire to be applauded, yet she was loved by those who had the privilege of knowing her. Sister Mary was a quiet, gentle soul, inside and out ... a GIFT!

In the end...

As is written in Micah: 6

This is what God asked of you (Mary)

*To act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.
And so she did!*

Sister Beverly Ornes, SC