

## **Sister John Margaret Harrington, SC**

Entered eternal life on May 10, 2020

“What a beautiful difference one single life made.”

Sister John Margaret Harrington, known to her family as Connie, was raised in Orange, NJ. She was devoted to her parents Margaret and John, brother John, and sisters May and Betty, along with her niece Mindy and nephew Jimmy. With a sparkle in her eyes, she shared fond memories of her family stories, the family cats sneaking in and out of the house and how proud she was of her father.

It was her faith and never ending trust in God that guided her to the Sisters of Charity. She entered the Sisters of Charity on March 3, 1955 and then attended St Joseph Hospital School of Nursing, Paterson NJ obtaining her nursing degree. She dedicated herself to caring for the sick and aging at several local hospitals. Sister John retired to Our Lady of Lourdes Convent, West Orange in 2001.

Although Sister was diagnosed with a heart condition and struggled with several health issues over the years, she never gave up. Several times we prayed for Sister because it was not looking “good.” As she got older and friends and family passed, she got a little chuckle out of the fact she had outlived many of the people who had been praying for her.

Following Vatican II, Sister embraced the changes; she even stopped wearing a habit on a daily basis. This was not a popular decision and it caused quite a stir. She could accept change and keep her faith intact.

While Sister was a nursing instructor she met two of her dearest friends Alyce and Gladys. These kindred spirits became lifelong true blue friends. Sister knew Alyce before she was married, before she had children and even before she was a full-fledged nurse! Along with her relatives Alyce and Gladys were family. Their children and grandchildren reaped the rewards of that friendship and love as it extended beyond all of us.

I believe it was in 1987 Sister met Sister Joan Eileen. They became fast and dear friends. They shared adventures, hobbies such as bird watching, and years of dedication and companionship to each other.

When she became your friend it was for a lifetime, each friend was special and unique. Sister shared celebrations and sad times. Her adventurous spirit included going to Ireland, California, and Florida. On occasion she was known to enjoy some chocolates and a Scotch (or two). Her laughter was infectious and she had a wonderful sense of humor. She could sit quietly with you and share her wisdom and faith to get you through the tough times. Her words often were exactly what you needed to hear and she always spoke the truth.

Although everyone is unique, her qualities of spirit and friendships will always be treasured in our memories. Whichever memory makes you smile the most, whichever one makes you happiest, hold that memory closest to your heart.



Mary Glennon