

Sister Cecilia Rose Devine

Entered eternal life on December 13, 2017



Sister Cecilia Rose Devine, 65 years a Sister of Charity. A quiet, committed, faithful Sister of Charity. She was a life-long educator, a wonderful school woman. For 52 years a teacher of young children in Clifton, Newark, and Bloomfield.

Sister Cecilia Rose was a caring, life-long friend to many, but especially to Sister Georgette Lingle. She was committed, warm, caring, quiet, aware and attuned to the world around about her...and responsive to it. She treated all those she met with great kindness.

Sister Cecilia Rose was a stalwart, treasured, member of the Congregation. She loved being a Sister of Charity and we will dearly love and value her always. Cecilia, May God bless you, protect you from all evil and lead you into everlasting life. Amen.

These first paragraphs are the words of Sister Rosemary Moynihan presented by Sister Joan Repka at the funeral Mass on Friday, December 15, 2017.

In his homily this morning, Fr. Anthony reflected on the reading from Isaiah that refers to “listening quietly for the voice of the Lord.” He said this is probably why God gave us two ears and only one mouth. How appropriate for Cecilia Rose who lost her ability to speak.

For the past six or seven years, Sister Cecilia Rose has not had the ability to speak, but this did not prevent her from communicating with those around her. Her eyes were very attuned to her surroundings. Her ability to respond with a quiet smile and sparkling eyes are reflected beautifully in the photo of her placed in front of the altar. It is from her Jubilee celebration just last year.

We heard from the nieces and nephews of Sister Georgette who are with us today that Sister Cecilia was full of life, always singing and dancing with them when they would visit their aunt in Bloomfield. Ceil was a real party girl!

In the past six years that I visited with Sister Cecilia we never had the opportunity to exchange any words. I often wondered what was going on in her mind. Was she saying, “Okay, enough already, move along to someone else!” or was she thinking, “so nice of you to visit, come again soon.” I’m going to presume the latter.

Sister Cecilia Devine is in her last journey and, for her, the Divine will embrace the Divine.

Sister Joan Repka