

**Sister Clare Maureen Tracy, SC**  
Entered Eternal Life October 16, 2019



Sister Clare Maureen, given the baptismal name Jane, was born the oldest of three daughters of Edward and Genevieve Naughton Tracy, on August 12, 1931 in Newark, New Jersey.

Sadly, at the age of four, she and her two younger sisters, Ann and Marie, lost their mother, leaving them to be raised by their loving grandmother, who with great care and example brought them up in the Faith. They became active members of Saint Vincent the Martyr Parish from their early years as students in the school and into their adult years. Sister Clare often shared fond memories of her school days with the Sisters of Charity - in particular, Sister Ellen Patricia Mead, her third grade teacher, who, many years later, became the Administrator of Saint Elizabeth's Hospital where Jane would serve as a Sister of Charity. Following her graduation from St. Vincent's, Jane completed her high school education at Bayley Ellard, also staffed by the Sisters of Charity.

Before entering the novitiate, she earned her certification as an x-ray technician at the Jersey City Medical Center and then was employed at East Orange General Hospital until she entered the novitiate at the Convent of Saint Elizabeth on March 6, 1955. At the end of her novitiate year, she was assigned to her first and only mission, Saint Elizabeth Hospital, to serve in the x-ray department as a skilled technician. Clare was released for a time from St. Elizabeth's to attend the University of St. Louis where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Technology and Radiology and where she learned the most modern techniques in the field at the time. She served as a radiological technician and the Director of the School of Radiological Technology at St. Elizabeth's Hospital until 1996. Clare was more than just a skilled technician but a Sister of Charity skilled technician whose ministry extended far beyond the technology labs. She treated each of her patients with the compassion and healing presence of Christ and took a personal interest in everyone who came to her or to whom she was called. She didn't punch a time clock. She ministered spiritually to the dying and their families on many occasions, not only, in the hospital, but often in their homes. The patients regarded Sister Clare not only as a professional health care person, but as a true friend who was present to them whenever possible. She rejoiced with them in good times and comforted and prayed with and for them in their sorrows. She always kept her promise to continue to pray for them. Tragically, Sister Clare's time at St. Elizabeth's was suddenly and temporarily interrupted on June 8, 1991, when she survived a car accident which took the life of the driver, our dear Sister Leonard Marie Haefner. Although Clare's life was spared, she suffered serious cuts to her face from which shattered pieces of glass had to be surgically removed. The skilled surgeon/surgeons at Morristown Memorial Hospital successfully removed the glass leaving her face scarless. Clare recovered from the shock of Sister Leonard's death and from her own emotional and physical injuries without complaint or self-pity. I am sure that her acceptance and resignation earned her the healing grace of the suffering Christ. Following her release from the hospital she returned to her duties at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Even in her retirement, Clare volunteered to serve in different areas of the hospital with no less dedication and commitment. Each day a hospital van provided her transportation to and from the hospital where she served at the front desk when needed, but more than that in the endoscopy department. Sister Clare was a faithful board member of the Trinitas Health Foundation who never missed a meeting and was always asked to compose and lead the opening prayer at the meeting. She carefully prepared an inspiring and meaningful prayer that would invoke God's blessing on the business at hand.

When, due to declining health, Sister Clare could no longer volunteer at the hospital, she never forgot her friends, be they patients, staff members or their relatives. She kept in touch either by phone calls or

written correspondence. There was never a day that she didn't check the obituaries so that she would not miss a wake and/ or a funeral of a friend or colleague.

She spent hours writing hundreds of cards at Christmastime with a personal message to each family or person, and also cards were sent to friends all during the year in celebration of each special occasion in one's life.

On a lighter note, Clare had a very contagious laugh! She enjoyed listening to and telling funny stories and jokes and, because of her contagious laugh, we would join in the laughter more because of her than the story or joke itself.

Sister Clare's love and devotion to her sisters, Ann and Marie and their families, as well as their love and concern for her, was limitless. Her nieces, Karen and Maureen and her nephews, John, Robert and Bill and all their children, whose names I will not mention for fear of omitting one, were present to Clare, not just for holidays or special occasions, but, also, in the ordinary events of life. How blessed she was! How blessed you are!

In conclusion, Clare, I would like to say how faithful and steadfast you were to our call as Sisters of Charity, and I quote:

"The principal end for which God has called and assembled the Sisters of Charity is to honor Jesus Christ, Our Lord, the Source and Model of Charity, by rendering Him every temporal and spiritual service in their power, in the persons of the poor, either sick, prisoners, insane, or those who through shame would conceal their necessities." Regulations for the Society of The Sisters of Charity in the Diocese of Newark, NJ, 1859.

So now, Sister Clare, enter into the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Sister Marie Charitina Frabizio, SC