



Sister Anne Estelle McGurl, CSJ
March 26, 1931~ July 14, 2023

On March 26, 1931, in Jamaica Plain, a small suburb of Boston, Nancy Mary McGurl was born to John and Ann McGurl, their only child. Having no brothers or sisters, Nancy was quite close to her Fitzpatrick and Callahan cousins, children of her mother's sisters and enjoyed summer adventures with them at the beach near Gloucester as well as at Nantasket Beach, south of Boston.

In first grade at public school, Nancy learned she wasn't going to be promoted unless her reading skills improved. Her mother quickly enrolled her in Elocution lessons, where she read and memorized poems. Over the years Nancy delighted many with her dramatic presentation of the "School In Elocution" where she imitated children at their elocution recital.

Nancy wrote:

Growing up in a very Catholic environment in Boston, MA. I remember walking with my public school friends to Church every Sunday morning, followed by an hour of "Catechism" classes taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. I met the Sisters again for the first three months of high school which was uncharacteristically interrupted by the news that we were moving to San Francisco. My father, John, had found a good paying job in "the city" and my mother, Ann, and I were urged to join him!!"

Coming from Boston to San Francisco in the middle of her freshman year was a major change in Nancy's life. She entered a large public school and later transferred to a smaller Catholic High School. St. Peter's, staffed by the Sisters of Mercy. It was there that she met Sister Mary Claude, who encouraged her to pursue her vocation as a Sister of St. Joseph. Sister Mary Claude connected Nancy with Sister Mary Martha Harrington at Star of the Sea. After a year attending San Francisco College of Women, Nancy entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on September 15, 1949, and received the habit and the name, Sister Anne Estelle on March 19, 1950. She professed First Vows on March 19, 1952 and Final Vows on August 15, 1957.

Looking back on her ministries, Anne Estelle said, "I've met wonderful people on my teaching missions in California stretching from Napa Valley to Solana Beach, serving as elementary teacher, principal, parish director of Religious Ed, director of RCIA and regional leadership. My challenges and joys were in giving whatever I could to each mission."

During the summers she volunteered in various ministries including; the Emergency Room at Daniel Freeman Hospital; service at Juvenile Hall in Los Angeles; teaching Catechism in Oxnard and Alaska; and assisting at the Community Law Office in Santa Ana.

After suffering a stroke in October of 2017, Anne Estelle joined Holy Family Community at Carondelet Center and in the summer of 2021 she was among the first group of CSJ's to move to St. John of God Care Center.

Blessed with an even disposition, a friendly manner and a great sense of humor, Anne Estelle was truly a minister of gentleness, peace and joy.

May she rest in the loving peace of God.

~ Sister Maureen O'Connor, CSJ