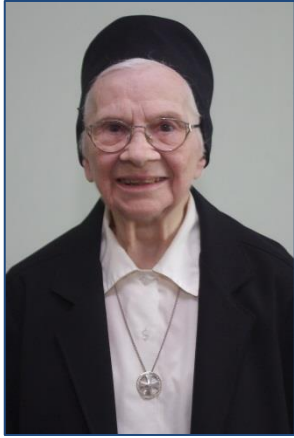


Reflection on the life of Sister Clarisita Wolk

September 3, 1917—August 17, 2013



Mary Clara Wolk was born, September 3, 1917 in Calumet, PA to Agnes Shefko Wolk and John Wolk. Mary Clara was baptized at the Church of St. Stanislaus, Calumet, PA, September 8, 1917.

Mary Clara had five sisters, three of whom have preceded her in death: Rose, Margaret and Pauline. Her surviving Sisters, Jean and Loretta are with us today along with some of her other relatives. We extend to you again our deepest sympathy and prayers.

When Mary Clara applied to enter the Sisters of Charity, Father Heinrich, in his letter of recommendation wrote that Mary Clara was a faithful attendant at Mass and the Sacraments, and then added that she had a "very solid and sensible character. I have no hesitancy in recommending her."

Mary Clara entered the Sisters of Charity at Seton Hill, September 8, 1936. When she received the habit January 1, 1937, she was given the name Sister Clarisita. In 2001, (64 years later) in response to the question about why she became a Sister of Charity, she responded: "Since grade school, I have wanted to be a sister. I am grateful to God and our CCD priests and teachers for directing me to the Sisters of Charity."

Sister earned a Bachelor in Education degree from Seton Hill College and a Master in Education degree from Duquesne University.

Sister taught in several of our Catholic Schools: Saint Stephen, Saint Mary (Chandler), Sacred Heart, Resurrection, Saint John the Baptist (where she also served as Principal) and Holy Innocents. After a serious infection that resulted in major hearing loss, she became a full-time crafter and manager of the gift shop at Assumption Hall in 1979. She also worked in the community garden with Sr. James Louise. When Caritas Christi opened, she continued her craft work in the craft room on the ground floor and continued along with several other sisters to supply gift items to be sold in the gift store here at Caritas Christ.

As I reflected on Sister's life, I was struck by some consistent qualities:

- *Her planning, organizing and leadership skills*

These skills were evident at Assumption Hall and now here at Caritas Christi. She developed the Craft Gift program, and encouraged other Sisters to join her in making crafts to be sold at the gift shop. She organized the first Christmas sale here at Caritas Christi.

- *Her sense of humor*

As I was looking through Sister's file, I came across a page from our July, 2001 Newsletter, which featured a trip to Twin Lakes. As you know, during this past summer, a group from Caritas Christi traveled to Twin Lakes, and the pictures from that event were posted in the dining room. On the day the pictures were put up, I walked through the dining room with Sister. She stopped to look at one of the pictures and burst out laughing. Then, she told the story of her trip in 2001 when she and Sr. James Louise took one of those paddle boats out.

They did not know how to turn around, and so they kept going further and further from shore. Whistles blew and a rescue boat was sent out to bring them back.

- *Her interest in others*

She was alert to just about everything going on here at Caritas Christi. I mentioned last night at the Vigil how she'd notice someone just coming into the dining room and would describe the person, the color of clothes, etc. When I'd tell her the Sister's name, she wanted to know what she did, where she lived. She'd read the weekly notices on the table, ask questions about the upcoming events, then, would decide to go or not to go to the event.

- *She loved company*

She smiled at everyone who passed near her. I never heard an unkind word from her. After she fell, she sent a message to "The Sisters who sat with her in the dining room, to come and visit her." Even after she fell, she was alert and told me exactly how it happened. To her, the biggest problem was not being allowed out for the rest of the day. Trays were brought, and the food was good, but there was no company.

- *She was a model Sister of Charity*

Many of you made this comment last evening at the Vigil. She was a wise woman, patient with her infirmities, kind to and thoughtful of others. She was faithful to her prayers, participated in our daily Liturgy, and spent many hours in prayer, either in the main chapel or at Elizabeth Ann Hall. We read in the Book of Wisdom a few minutes ago that the Faithful will abide with God in Love. And in the Gospel we heard that anyone who has given up everything—father, mother, sister, for His sake— will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

Yes, this faith-filled woman who left her family to come and serve God as a Sister of Charity has gone to abide in God's love. May she continue to intercede for us who are still on the journey toward God's eternal home where one day we will join her, our Foundress, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and all the Sisters of Charity who have gone before us. What a grand reunion that will be.

*Funeral Liturgy Reflection
~ Anne Flynn, S.C.
August 20, 2013*