

In Memoriam



Sister Rachel Philippe
of our Lady of Dolors Racine

Born into this life July 29, 1930
Religious Profession July 15, 1958
Born into eternity August 26, 2021

Sister Rachel knew how to speak to the hearts of the little ones. She knew how to dry their tears on their first day of school, and introduce them to the exciting adventures of learning. Her artistic talents, her love of music, and her delight in nature were all gifts that blossomed and helped her grow into a gifted and loving mentor to the young. She passed on to them her love of nature, taught them about a loving God, and grounded them in the essentials of the academic curricula.

After leaving full-time teaching, she served the little ones at Cluny School as a gifted tutor, while also assisting the teachers with enthusiasm amid the endless preparation of lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic. Later Sister cut back on her hours, volunteering at the school as a reading resource teacher. It was only in her late 80s that Sister Rachel fully retired from teaching.

In her retirement, Sister enjoyed her daily walk around the block “praying my rosary for my neighbors,” she said. She would often be seen praying in the chapel, eyes closed, a peaceful expression on her face.

Statues and monuments to poets and professors abound, and we honor them, but they cannot replace the loving hands and heart of the primary teacher whose words and actions speak to us of God.

Obituary: <https://oneillhayes.com/tribute/details/1558/Sr-Rachel-Philippe-Racine/obituary.html#content-start>



Sister Josephine of Jesus St. Leger

Born into this life December 3, 1931
Religious Profession January 4, 1954
Born into eternity August 16, 2021

Sister Josephine was a true Cluny missionary in the spirit of Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey, announcing the Good News of God’s all-embracing love. Sharing the mission and relationships with the sisters was central to her life. She had a gentle way of letting others know that they were loved and valued. Sister Josephine devoted her gifts for leadership not only to her various ministries but also to her Cluny community, serving as Principal of Cluny School; Provincial Councilor; community leader at St. Joseph Convent on Brenton Road in Newport, RI; and, with three other sisters founding the community at Javouhey House, also in Newport.

As principal, she encouraged the teachers to be creative and develop their own style rather than fit into a mold. She mentored and supported, leading, and commanding respect by her example.

Down through the years, even in the midst of busy days of ministry and community responsibilities, Sister Josephine remained close to her family, celebrating the joys and supporting them through difficulties and loss.

Although she will be remembered for her many accomplishments, she was more importantly a woman true to herself, her God, her family, her sisters in community, and the numerous friendships forged wherever she lived. There was always a twinkle in her eye, and a ready smile on her face. And when the music started, you’d hear a tapping toe. We will always be grateful for the gift of Sister Josephine among us. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.*

Obituary: <https://oneillhayes.com/tribute/details/1556/Sr-Josephine-St-Leger/obituary.html#tribute-start>