

LORETTO COMMUNITY

Sisters of Loretto/Co-members of Loretto

June 8, 2021

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Funeral services set June 22 for Loretto Sister Jean Kelley, who served in the Pueblo Diocese for more than 25 years in adult education and with an amnesty program

Funeral services for Loretto Sister Jean Kelley will take place at 10 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 22, in the Church of the Seven Dolours on the grounds of Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. Sister Jean died May 30 at Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary. She was 99 and in the 77th year of her commitment as a Sister of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross. Among her ministries, she had served for more than 25 years in the Pueblo Diocese in adult education and with an amnesty program.

Sister Jean was born Jan. 21, 1922, in Fort Dodge, Iowa, the daughter of Frances (Flaherty) and William Thomas Kelley. The family grew to include two girls and three boys. She entered the Sisters of Loretto in 1944 and was received into Loretto April 25, 1945, taking the name Sister Francis Ann. She later returned to her baptismal name. She made her first vows in 1947 and her final vows in 1950. Sister Jean earned a bachelor's degree in sociology, with minors in education and Latin, in 1943 from Loretto Heights College in Denver, and a master's in sociology in 1956 from St. Louis University.

In her early ministry, Sister Jean taught at Loretto-staffed schools in Alabama, Kentucky, Missouri and New Mexico, where she also served as principal. From 1963-77, she served in Loretto's South American missions in Chile and Bolivia, where she lived with Aymara communities and ran an adult ed program.

From 1977 to 2003, Sister Jean served in La Jara and Capulin, Colo., in the Pueblo Diocese. There, she sang in a parish choir, taught adult education and assisted with an amnesty program. She then moved to Sunland Park, N.M., where she taught ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, and in 2010, to El Paso, Texas, where she volunteered, gave piano lessons and baked delicious bread.

She moved to Loretto Motherhouse in 2012 and to the Infirmary in 2014, where she resided until her death. Sister Jean donated her body to the University of Louisville. A wake for Sister Jean will take place at 6:30 p.m. EDT Monday, June 21, at Loretto Motherhouse. Her cremains will be buried in the Loretto Motherhouse Nature Preserve Cemetery.

She is survived by her sister, Loy McCrea of Las Vegas. Preceding her in death were her parents and siblings Thomas, Robert (Bob) and James (Jimmy) Kelley. Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Loretto for our mission, c/o Loretto Motherhouse, 515 Nerinx Road, Nerinx KY 40049 or as an online gift to www.lorettocommunity.org.

