

# Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province



## Genealogy Request

Family Name McRory, Margaret Gertrude

Sister Name (if applicable) Sister St. Claire

Birth Date/Place 2-1-1882 Charlotte Town, P.E.I., Canada

Reception into Novitiate 8-31-1912

First Vows 8-15-1915 Final Vows 8-15-1918

Date/Place of Death 11-20-1955 Ascension Convent, Mpls., Mn.

Date/Place of Interment 11-23-1955 Resurrection, St. Paul, Mn.

Education Certificate Mn. Music Teachers Assoc. Licentiate

Ministry Music

Mother's Maiden Name Jane Mc Carey

Birth Date/Place ? Ireland

Father's Name Francis Mc Rory

Birth Date/Place ? Ireland

Other Notes

Sister St. Claire McRory died November 20, 1955, at the Ascension Convent, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the 74th year of her age and the 44th of her religious life.

Sister St. Claire was born at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, February 1, 1882. She entered the novitiate on August 31, 1912, at an older age than most young girls dedicated themselves to the religious life. Nevertheless, her age at death was a complete surprise to many because she always manifested a dauntless spirit and a tireless energy.

Many a heart today feels a great vacancy and a deep loss with the passing of Sister St. Claire. Her friends were numerous as was evident throughout the days preceding her burial. Many an hour her friends enjoyed in conversation with her. Her animation of spirit, her spontaneous sense of humor, her forgetfulness of self and her alertness to any sensitive predicament made others seek her companionship. Never would she condescend to uncharitableness about her neighbors. Her sense of humor was unusual. During recreation whenever the group of Sisters was more than usually merry and joyous, one could be sure that Sister St. Claire was entertaining them with her stories, tales and anecdotes, for she was the life of the community wherever she lived. Because of her ability to meet strangers graciously, she was frequently chosen as traveling companion by the Sisters. She could be depended upon to fit into any family circle or group and by her cheerful demeanor she gave evidence that she felt perfectly at home. Anyone who placed confidence in her knew this confidence never would be divulged. No one was more loyal to her friends than she was.

Only recently Sister remarked that never had she missed her community prayers. She loved to be with and pray with the community. Many prayerful hours were spent in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Sister usually was the first in the chapel in the morning, and only God knows how many hours earlier. Her kindness to the Sisters was outstanding. By the performance of many acts of charity, particularly toward those who might be ill, she completely endeared herself. Special acts of kindness were reserved for those she thought might be neglected or less popular with their companions. Nothing was too difficult to do for the happiness of her Sisters, nor would Sister ever refuse a service.

Sister St. Claire's forty-four years of religious life were spent in teaching piano, except for one year. Many an accomplished musician today owes his success to Sister's excellent teaching. In any task she performed, whether of service, of teaching, or any household activity, she gave her complete self. Vigorous devotion and energy were spent in the musical field. All that was hers was given conscientiously and wholeheartedly to her students. Any show of talent on the student's part was developed to the fullest extent, and the student was guided to feel from whence came this gift and the responsibility for developing it. Sister taught at St. Mark's, St. Paul; Holy Angels Academy; Ascension, Catholic Boys' Home, St. Charles Borromeo, Minneapolis; St. Anne's, Le Sueur; St. Michael's, Stillwater; St. Joseph's, Marshall; and Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Her death was sudden to friends but not to herself. The subject of death was constantly in her conversation and ever in her mind. There was always an awareness of the end. One by one she saw her loved ones laid to rest while she remained until the last. Her life was always well planned and well regulated. There was never the characteristic of a hit-or-miss policy about any of her activities. This regularity and expectancy were perfectly exemplified at the end. Sister remarked several times: "I cannot get over how good God is to send me to a lovely place like this for my last days." Her trunk, the chest drawers and locker were practically empty of all things; no superfluities of any type were to be found. An envelope was found in the trunk with the following notation: "When I am dead send the enclosed card to Reverend Father Rector to have Masses said for my soul." It was a certification of the Purgatorial Society from the Redemptorist Fathers enrolling her name as a deceased member.

Her last Sunday was an active one for her. She participated in all the community exercises, served the Sisters at breakfast, spent her free time in the chapel, and after supper conducted choir practice for the Christmas singing. The last hymn was "Jubilate Deo", "Praise the Lord"! In what a fitting manner to close such a full life! The "Magnificat" — which the choir had planned to sing, but did not due to lack of time, — Sister St. Claire sang in heaven, for about 8:15 she was found dead on the landing between the basement and the first floor of the convent. Her soul was already with the Sacred Heart to whom she had such great devotion, and to whom she went for all favors. As Monsignor Reardon, a friend of her family, so beautifully remarked, "She left the choir on earth to join that choir in heaven!" May her dear soul find that fervent love it has always so ardently desired.