

***Remembering  
Sister Jean Doyle  
1936 - 2024***



*“our oneness in Christ extends  
beyond this life,  
the bond of community  
unites us even after death”  
(Const. #59/d.31)*

On September 7, 2024 Sister Jean Doyle, formerly known as Sister Mary Vianney, passed away peacefully at Chatham Kent Health Alliance after a short illness. She is predeceased by her parents, William Joseph and Jean Marie, and her sisters Mary and Annette. Jean grew up on the family farm where she developed her great love for all aspects of creation especially flowers, fruits, and the changing seasons.

Jean entered the Ursuline Sisters in 1954 and ministered for many years as a teacher. She was an innovative and creative educator and took delight in her work with the very young in various places in Ontario. She described her six years in St. Augustine on the Lower North Shore of Quebec as life changing. The sense of community among the people there spoke to her of the true living out of the Gospel message and the setting reminded her of the Gospel stories about fishing, sowing and sharing bread. After her time in St. Augustine, Jean lived and ministered for twenty-six years in Bradford, Ontario where she was involved in a variety of activities in the school and parish, working both with the young and with seniors.

Wherever she lived and worked Jean formed solid relationships and maintained friendships over the miles and over time. She had a great appreciation of the natural world, especially of water, whether it was lakeshores, riverbanks, oceans or ponds.

Her eye for beauty was drawn to butterflies and flowers of all kinds, especially sunflowers. She enjoyed gathering and celebrating with friends, family members and her Ursuline sisters and was an enthusiastic traveler to places both near and far, often in the company of her dear friend, Sister Marion Normandin.

Jean's life was celebrated at St. Angela's Meadow Retirement Lodge with readings and music that she had selected. The prayers were led by Sr. Sheila McKinley and the readings were proclaimed by her nieces Colleen and Anita and by Sr. Noreen Allossery-Walsh. The flower arrangements in the kiva featured a variety of colourful choices and they all contained Jean's favourite sunflowers. Friends from various areas of Jean's life joined the family and Community to share their memories of her.

Amazingly, as they recounted their stories, a butterfly flitted from window to window around the kiva, a beautiful symbol of the new life which Jean now experiences.

The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on September 13<sup>th</sup> with Father Daniel Bombardier, a former pupil of Jean's, presiding. Also in attendance was Father Jerry Hudson, a good friend of Jean's from her Bradford days.

The music ministers for both of Jean's celebrations were Michael Milner and Sr. Liz Lynch. The readings were proclaimed by Jean's great niece Nicole and her niece Anita while Sr. Eleanor Gleeson led the Prayers of the Faithful. Father Daniel in his homily spoke of Jean's great passion for life and her sense of joy and enthusiasm in living out the Gospel call.

After the final prayers, members of Jean's family, her nieces Colleen and Anita and her nephew Peter processed from the kiva with Sr. Theresa Mahoney. Anita carried the urn from the kiva as members of the assembly formed an honour guard. Jean's family members provided a lovely lunch for the guests as people continued to visit and share.

A childhood memory from Jean:

*"Hot summer days would find my sisters Mary, Annette and me lying on the grass finding 'pictures' in the cloud formations while being refreshed by the cool blowing breezes, and the occasional wonderful electrical storm."*