

*Sr. Gabriel McClain, ASCJ*



Sr. Maria Gabriel McClain, ASCJ of Sacred Heart Manor, Hamden died January 18, 2012 at the Manor. Sr. Gabriel was born in Wilkinsburg, PA May 1, 1915 to the late William and Catherine McCarthy McClain. She entered the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus August 18, 1932 in New Haven, professed her first vows August 23, 1934 and her perpetual vows August 24, 1943.

Sr. Gabriel's joyful witness as an Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus brought the love of the Sacred Heart to all those with whom she ministered as a teacher and librarian throughout her 77 years of religious life. Sr. Gabriel served in education as a teacher in elementary schools in Missouri, New York and Pennsylvania as well as briefly ministering in social work at St. Donato's Parish, New Haven, Connecticut. Sr. Gabriel was a beloved member of the faculty of Sacred Heart Academy where she was a teacher and then for thirty one years was the head librarian of the Mary and James DiMeo Library of Sacred Heart Academy. Her warm smile and twinkling blue eyes welcomed all the students, faculty and parents throughout her thirty nine years of ministry at Sacred Heart Academy.

Following her retirement from Sacred Heart Academy in 1992, Sr. Gabriel assisted at Mount Sacred Heart Provincialate and at Sacred Heart Manor, Hamden, Connecticut. In 1998, Sr. Gabriel retired to Sacred Heart Manor, where she was a loving, caring, joyful presence to her sisters in community. Sr. Gabriel graduated from St. Anthony High School, St. Louis, Missouri; she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in History from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri and a Masters of Library of Science degree from St. John University, New York, New York. Sr. Gabriel was a true Apostle Adorer who treasured her hours in Chapel confidently bringing before her Lord the needs and intentions of her Sisters, her family, her friends, and the ministries of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was predeceased by her brothers, Henry, William and James and her sister, Helen Johnston, Sr. Gabriel is survived by her sister, Mary Noon of Maryland, many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and many beloved Sister Apostles, her religious family.