

## Reflection of Sister Mary Catherine Seli, SC

October 6, 1925 – November 30, 2023



Prayers and greetings to Sister Mary Catherine's sisters, Eleanor and Peggy; brother, Fred; and her loving nieces and nephews who are joining us in prayer via live streaming. You are with us in spirit!

***“Joy is the Echo of God’s Life in Us.”***

“In my father’s house there are many dwellings...and I am preparing a place of joy for you...that where I am, you also may be...”

***“Joy is the Echo of God’s Life in Us.”***

Being a member of a large loving and faith-filled family was definitely one of Mary Catherine’s joys. She contributes her parent’s deep faith as one of the “seeds” of her vocation. Praying together was important to them. Playing school when they dressed up as sisters, using a baby blanket or the hat from her sister’s costume for “habits” was a favorite activity when she was growing up.

In her oral history, Mary Catherine shares how she would meet her father after school and walk home with him; and the delight she felt when he carried her bookbag, after teasingly complaining: that she must have put every book in her desk in it! She enjoyed the comradery they shared.

***“Joy is the Echo of God’s Life in Us.”***

This joy expressed itself in gratitude to others for their help – in the novitiate; as a neophyte postulant teacher; and throughout her ministry as teacher; administrator; archivist; retired sister at Caritas Christi – even as her expertise was recognized by the Knights of Columbus in 1984 – as distinguished St. Therese Principal in 2013. Also, she and several Sisters of Charity collaborated and received a grant from the

Pennsylvania Historical Society for \$4,002 to preserve our historical documents.  
Quiet an accomplishment!

Mary Catherine, your spirit of gratitude also permeated your interaction with your family, your Sisters of Charity, your students and co-workers. Listen to what they say:

A former student wrote: *“She was my 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at St. Jerome, Charleroi. I remember the kindness in her voice and her dedication to her students.”*

And again – a co-worker at St. Stephen wrote: *“She was a wonderful teacher – always so gracious. Rest in peace, Sr. Mary Catherine.”*

Another co-worker at St. Stephen states: *“I appreciated her dedication to the language arts program; but, I more enjoyed the friendship and our continued correspondence the remainder of her days.”*

***“Joy is the Echo of God’s Life in Us.”***

Mary Catherine, your compassion toward family... friends... us at Caritas and all others in need is one of the fruits of this grace of joy that is yours.

Daughter...Sister...Teacher...Archivist...Lover of Nature...Beloved friend of Sister Lindena...all of these are wonderful descriptors of who you are, but these pale in comparison to your awareness of living daily in God’s presence with – and within you. Chardin writes: *“Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God.”*

Mary Catherine, this gift of Joy that you are, and have been, has been fostered by your love affair with your God, and the ever-deepening realization that you always are in God’s presence. Go in peace and continue to cherish the Joy of God’s eternal presence.

*~Sister Kathleen McCauley, SC*