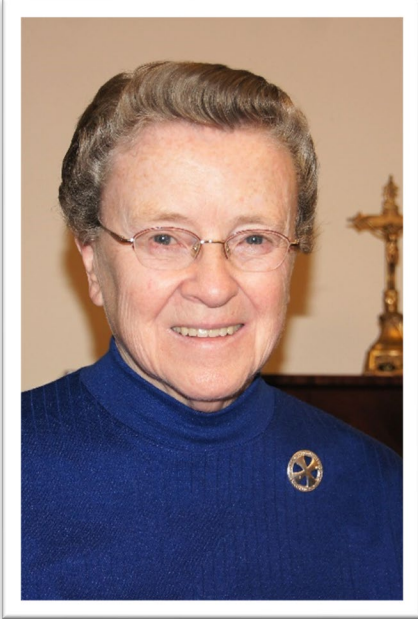


Reflection for Sister Anne (“Cedie”) Tommey

January 22, 1940 – January 17, 2024



Prayers and greetings to Cedie’s brothers, Bob and Jack, and to her loving nieces and nephews who are joining us in prayer or via live streaming. We are together in spirit.

Sister Anne/Cedie, through birth and baptism and as a Sister of Charity, you were chosen by God for this new life of love and invited to dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: **compassion; kindness; humility; quiet strength... and so many others.** And God also recommended that regardless whatever else you put on–wear **LOVE!** It’s your basic **garment.**

You learned, lived, and experienced this love from your mom, Anna Mae (Fitzpatrick) and your dad, Maurice, and your brothers: John, Jack, Maurice (your twin), and Bob. And also from your nieces and nephews, your group and your friends. You cherished being a twin–and the only girl (and a red-head at that) who was well able to hold her own with her brothers. Spending time with your grandfather after school was also special.

PUT ON LOVE – YOUR BASIC ALL-PURPOSE GARMENT

And, you took to heart another invitation from Jesus:

“What you do for the least of my brothers and sisters you do for me.”

Whether you were teaching, being principal, working with the Seton Arts Program, venturing to Korea, being Sister Servant at Caritas Christi, and..., this was your guiding principle.

For instance, when a child was habitually late for school, you promised to go to his house and bring him to school–and you kept your promise! Lesson learned! This young man graduated from St. Stephen’s and went on to also graduate from Central Catholic.

And, on the occasion of your Golden Jubilee you wrote, *“As I minister with others, I am constantly reminded of how the presence of God in my life has changed me and I try to project the presence of God in all that I do in ministering with and to others – that is – to show God’s love for me in my love and service to others.”*

LOVE DEFINITELY IS YOUR BASIC GARMENT

It was mentioned at the prayer vigil about the great effort you made to raise money for the St. Kieran students to use for tuition–and in your words, are the source of your motivation. *“The most satisfying and rewarding aspect of my religious life has been working with people of need*

and those of less fortunate means. To be able to help families obtain the financial awards they need so that their children are able to receive a good Catholic education is most gratifying. Most everyone is truly grateful.”

So, it is most understandable that you, Cedic, would be nominated for—and receive—the ***Manifesting the Kingdom Award in 2006*** from the Pittsburgh Diocese.

THIS GARMENT OF LOVE HAS VERSATILITY

When St. Kieran School became a merger, you took the opportunity to volunteer for a year in Korea which would give our Korean sisters the opportunity to practice their English. Later, as you reflected on time there, you wrote: *“I learned what it is to be dependent...to be a minority...I was sent to give our Korean sisters a chance to practice conversational English...but I had never learned their language at all. They were so patient, so warm and understanding! The best part of my year in Korea was getting to know the Korean people.”*

Following the year in Korea, you served as principal of St. Stephen School for 15 years—until it closed. At the celebration of St. Stephen School after its closing, you wrote, *“I am so grateful for the outpouring of love, concern and prayers during this very difficult time. But, the actual presence of so many sisters at our Mass, reception and open house said it all!”*

GOD’S GARMENT OF LOVE HAS MANY DESIGNS

Cedic, celebrating life was definitely one of your “favorite things” and your outgoing, fun-loving, positive spin on life made everyone feel welcome—whatever the occasion. Quality time with your family was at the top of the list: providing refreshments for and watching the Steelers win, or lose but preferably win; enjoying all things Irish; your sense of humor; an occasional beer; and definitely ice cream, a large dish anytime but not chocolate; a DQ with Bob; two or more games of Yahtzee; and enjoying the beauty of the blue sky.

What a heavenly Irish celebration is going on in eternity as you are welcomed by your mom and dad; Sisters Francis Regis and Marlene; and of course, your twin Moe.

Cedic, I am so grateful for the privilege of walking with you these months. Your love, your sense of humor, your gratitude are gifts to us—to me—that were never diminished by your illness, but shone through and enriched and blessed us.

And as a nurse who took care of you, Cedic, expressed so well on January 17th:

This precious Woman of God went home to be with the Lord this morning. I had the pleasure of her as a dear, precious friend. I enjoyed loving and caring for you, Sister Anne. You are now in heaven with our precious Lord.

You were, and will always be “Cedic!” Enjoy your eternal celebration with Jesus, ***the garment of love you wore!***

—Sister Kathleen McCauley, SC
January 20, 2024