Sister Karen McCrory

October 28, 1946-March 28, 2021

October 28, 1946, in Canon City, Colorado, Charles Lowell McCrory and Arletta Leona Klepper McCrory had a little girl whom they named Karen LaVern McCrory. She grew up in the small town of Cotopaxi, Colorado. Sister Karen has a younger brother, Loren McCrory. At age ten, Karen requested to be baptized in her Community Church.

Sister Karen's confirmation and profession of faith in the Catholic Church were made December 15, 1974, in Phoenix Arizona. She entered Marycrest, our motherhouse, in Denver, Colorado on June 11, 1975, was received on August 15, 1976, made temporary vows on June 4, 1978, and made her final vows May 31, 1982.

Before entering, Sister Karen received a two-year degree from Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado. While in the novitiate she attended Notre Dame and University of Missouri in St. Louis, Missouri. She attended Emily Griffith Opportunity School in Denver, Colorado and received a certificate in Supervisory Training. Sister Karen was in Pastoral Ministry working with Sister Kathryn Leahy in several nursing homes. She received the Basic Unit of CPE, Clinical Pastoral Education, from Boulder Community College in Boulder, Colorado. Sister Karen used her skills of genuine care for others, especially in times of physical, emotional, and spiritual need, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Minot, North Dakota. Sister Karen ministered to all she met in Minot from 1980-1987 and 1990-1998.

In July 1987 Sister Karen answered the inner call to serve as a missionary. She was chosen by the General Council to form the first international community with two other Sisters. They began St. Clare Mission in Tanzania, Africa. In preparation Sister Karen attended the International School of Languages to learn Swahili, the national and working language of Tanzania. Sister Karen taught general hygiene to the women. She returned to Marycrest in Denver, Colorado in 1990.

In 1998, Sister Karen pursued a ministry in massage therapy becoming a full-time student at the Cottonwood School of Massage Therapy in Denver, Colorado. In 1999, she began a private practice in Denver. Sister Karen moved to Alliance, Nebraska, in 2006 to begin her ministry of comforting and supporting people through Massage Therapy. In 2017, she left her ministry in Massage Therapy but continued to minister to the spiritual wellbeing of the people she knew and loved. Sister Karen worked in Pastoral Ministry at Holy Rosary Catholic Church and was a speaker and facilitator in RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Eventually her ministry was baking bread for the parishioners of Holy Rosary Catholic Church and meals for friends, sisters, and neighbors.

Sister Karen moved to Highland Park Assisted Living in March 2020. At this time, many restrictions were initiated because of COVID-19. Sister Karen was on "lock-down," meaning she could not leave Highland Park Assisted Living, and at times the residents were restricted to their rooms. Her friends and the Sisters were not able to visit her.

On March 15, 2021, Sister Karen fell and was taken to Box Butte General Hospital for observation. She had Lou Gehrig's Disease (also known as ALS). Tests were taken to assess the disease's progression. She was transferred to Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, on March 22, 2021. After many years of graciously and courageously suffering with her disease Sister Karen passed away Sunday, March 28, 2021 (Palm Sunday) at Regional West Medical Center. Sunday, April 3 (Easter Sunday), her body was brought to Marian Residence.

Sister Karen's Celebration of Life Mass was celebrated at Marian Residence on April 4, 2021 (Easter Monday). COVID restriction prevented Sisters from Denver, family, and friends from attending in person. The Mass was celebrated virtually on ZOOM. The resident pastor, Father Tim Stoner, resident Sisters, pall bearers and staff of Marian Residence were in attendance. Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery in Alliance, Nebraska.

Sisters of St Francis of Penance and Christian Charity