



Sheila McCormick
December 19, 1936 — October 21, 2010

Sally A. McCormick was born Dec. 19, 1936 in Dixon, Illinois. She was the first of six daughters born to Cecil and Mildred and grew up on the family farm in Harmon, Illinois.

Pat McCormick, Sheila's cousin wrote, "We thrived in a family of three generations in which most of the men were gentle and funny with the gift of storytelling and most of the women were strong, valiant and feisty. And we liked it that way."

Sheila attended high school and Newman in Sterling. She entered the Sisters of Loretto upon graduation in 1954. Ann Skeffington recalls the excitement of the train trip to Loretto where Ann was among the oldest in the class and Sheila the youngest.

In 1959 Sheila began her teaching career in Rockford, IL followed by fifteen years teaching in Colorado, first in Fort Collins then in Denver, Englewood, and Colorado Springs before moving into religious education in the Springs and then in the Denver area.

Sheila was the Director of Religious Education at Christ on the Mountain in Lakewood, Colorado for twenty years. There she developed an excellent

religious education program and an outreach program to involve the parish in service to the poor of Denver and in the work of peace and justice. Pat recalls that during the 12 years she lived in Five Points, Sheila would come down carrying clothes, food, and supplies to the Catholic Worker House and to the Soup Kitchen. She described Sheila's heart. "Never have I asked for help of any kind from Sheila and not received it...be it a used car for a family at the Catholic Worker, be it parish involvement in a peace and justice project, or support at the time of person loss."

During sixteen of her years at Christ on the Mountain Sheila lived in community with Mary Nelle Gage and Ruth Routten. There she was famous as a cook, making her special spaghetti pie as a homemaker and hostess. Sheila loved to gather people. She was always an avid reader and loved to travel, bike, hike and camp. Sheila remembered that, "We had so much fun. We had such good times."

Sheila retired in 1998. Intending to spend a sabbatical year reconnecting with her sisters, Sheila moved to Rock Falls. That year, Sheila's sister Kathy was diagnosed with cancer. For the next five years Sheila cared for Kathy. Following Kathy's death, Sheila helped her sister June navigate retirement and move back to Rock Falls. Sheila has provided June, who has been severely hearing impaired since birth, with support through having a cochlear implant. With Sheila's support, June has now recovered the ability to hear and understand speech.

Sheila enjoyed her trip to Denver for the Loretto Gathering this past September and her final vacation with Mary Nelle, Ruth, and other friends.

Sheila had gotten sick with what she thought was the flu on October 3rd. By the time she was admitted to the hospital had severe pneumonia. Tests also revealed some cardiac issues and leukemia. She was moved to Coventry House for hospice the evening on October 20 and Sheila died Thursday morning, October 21.

God bless you, Sheila. We are thankful for your generous spirit.