

Jude Manidis **One of the First Lay Salvatorian Associates**



Jude Manidis, was born on July 17, 1943 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Kathleen and John Manidis. She was the third of their nine children. While growing up in Drexel Hill; Jude attended the parish elementary school, Archbishop Prendergast High School and St. Joseph's University.

After teaching in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for a few years, Jude transferred to the Camden Diocese and taught in the city of Camden. She believed that you needed to live in the area you ministered; therefore, she left her parents' home in Drexel Hill and moved into the city of Camden. Many of her neighbors were poor and in need of assistance, Jude became their driver to doctors, grocery stores, babysitter and confidant.

After 20 years in the classroom, Jude became a Director of Religious Education first in Camden then in Philadelphia. For a time, she ministered in the Education Office of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. There her main responsibility was to

see that the children with special needs received them.

In the spring of 1973, Jude met the Salvatorians at Blackwood, when she took training to become a facilitator. With this training she worked with the Pre-Cana lead couples in the Camden Diocese.

On July 28, 1976, Jude made commitment as a Salvatorian Associate at Camp St. Charles in Rock Point, Maryland. As a Salvatorian, she served on the National Board. In fact, she was a member of the board that produced the Bryce Mountain Paper. She also co-chaired five SANWs (Salvatorian Associates National Weekend).

Although the group she belonged to was called the Philadelphia region, most of the meetings, celebrations and gathering were held in Maryland. This meant taking the drive to Maryland to attend community activities. Frequently these gatherings were at night so after a day's work, Jude would travel the 150 miles to the Salvatorian activities.

Her last place for public ministry was in St. Cecelia's Parish in Pennsauken, New Jersey. First Jude was a middle school teacher and then became the Director of Religious Education. Seeing that classes were provided for the children was only part of what she did while ministering there. She also formed a bereavement group that would help families dealing with the death of a loved one.

In 1999, Jude was stricken with brain tumors. After surgery to remove what could be removed it was decided that she could no longer live independently; Jude moved into Genesis Elder Care nursing facility in Voorhees, New Jersey. Instead of becoming angry or pulling away, she believed that God was calling her to a new ministry. For the next four years, Jude visited those clients confined to their room, conducted Bible Studies, and became an advocate for the clients. She put many hours into seeing that the rights and needs of the elderly were taken care of.

Even when her body caused her to be confined to a wheel chair and then finally to her room Jude continued to advocate for others and speak about the God she so dearly loved and his devoted disciple Father Francis Jordan.

The last few months were particularly difficult first she lost her sight, then the use of the right side of her body. In all this time when visitors came they were asked about their lives, families and ministry. She never complained for herself or about the limitations placed on her. Jude believed that this happened to her so she could find other ways to minister and she spent her time looking for these instead of feeling sorry for herself. She died on July 29, 2004.

Jude is remembered for her infectious, positive spirit and energy as she served the Salvatorian Family and all others she encountered.