

February 7, 2024

Dear Associates and Sisters,

Jeanne Hagerty Susalla, age 92, of Novi, MI, passed away on February 1, 2024. Jeanne was smart, outgoing, caring, and fun. She was raised in Royal Oak, MI with three siblings. Jeanne's nicknames were "Jeannie" and "Red" (due to her red hair). Jeanne attended University of Detroit in the Secretary Science program and was a member of Phi Gamma Alpha sorority, where she made life-long friends. After 11 years part-time at Oakland Community College she earned her Associate's Degree in Applied Science-Mental Health. Jeanne graduated from Marygrove College in Detroit in 1986 (at age 55) with a BA in Social Services (and minors in psychology and social work). She was honored for leadership and service on and off campus and became certified in MI as a social worker.



Jeanne met David E. Susalla at a St. Mary's dance, and they were married on August 27, 1955. They were soulmates for 66 years of marriage, raising a family together. In 1970 they were a foster family with Catholic Social Services. Jeanne liked to say they spoiled 36 lucky foster children (4 preschoolers and the rest newborns). Jeanne handled crisis counseling calls and mental health commitments at Common Ground for 35 years, working full-time nights for 14 years, then part-time, retiring at age 86. Jeanne liked helping people--her advice to new employees was to be a good listener. As a trained volunteer with OCCRO (Oakland County Crisis Response Organization), Jeanne counselled first responders. At one point Jeanne started "Pet Loss Counseling" to utilize her professional experience helping pet lovers. She was also a communion minister (volunteering & doing scheduling) for St. John Oakland Hospital for many years.

She was introduced to the Associate relationship by JoAnn Smith and made her commitment as an Associate in 1993. She was commissioned as a Minister of Praise the following year. Her resolve to pray for many different people was strong. Besides praying for the intentions in the Ministry of Praise monthly letters, she held in prayer the homeless she saw on her way to work, friends who were widowed, and for the needs of Sisters and Associates. She kept her personal prayer list with her in a small book. Jeanne met monthly with a group of Associates and Sisters in Michigan for many years. Geri Hermann, her contact person, was inspired by Jeanne's simplicity and caring for others.

Despite a fear of flying, Jeanne enjoyed travelling, particularly a trip to Ireland where she kissed the Blarney Stone. She and Dave visited England, Canada, the Caribbean, Florida, and Montana

(by train), but her favorite trips were her and Dave's annual spring stays on Jekyll Island, Georgia, where Jeanne never knew a stranger.

Jeanne always liked to do laundry, but not cooking and enjoyed meals out with family and friends. Her hobbies included sewing, quilting, shopping, and reading. Family get-togethers were important to Jeanne, as was keeping in touch with her many friends via calls, emails, and texts.

Jeanne, may you continue to pray and intercede for all of us from your heavenly home,

Carolyn Meyer