



Jane O'Hara

August 11, 1929 - May 11, 2009

Norma Jane O'Hara, age 79, passed away peacefully on May 9, 2009 in Topeka, Kansas, surrounded by her family. She was born August 11, 1929, in Seneca, Kansas, to Urban and Georgina Koelzer. She grew up in Seneca and graduated as valedictorian of her high school class. She received a full scholarship to Mount Saint Scholastica Academy and later attended the University of Kansas, from which she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1951. She obtained her Master's degree in Education from Washburn University in 1974. She married William Joseph O'Hara on July 25, 1953 in Seneca, Kansas. The couple moved to Topeka in 1965 with their four children, and Jane taught elementary school at Sheldon and McClure for USD 501 until her retirement in 1993. She was an active member of Christ the King Catholic Church, where she was a lector, Eucharistic Minister, Sacristan, and active in the Adoration of the Eucharist. She volunteered as a liturgical coordinator at Hayden High School and at Let's Help. She was an avid indoor and outdoor gardener, a KU sports enthusiast, and she loved animals, especially dogs and her miniature schnauzer, Hogan. She was preceded in death by her brother, Tom Koelzer, and her son, Timothy O'Hara. She is survived by her husband, Joe, her daughters, Brigid "Deni" O'Hara (Mike Leahy) of Wichita and Patrice O'Hara of Topeka, and her son, Sean O'Hara of Topeka; granddaughters Collette (Mike) Baadte of Shawnee, Caitlin Pomeroy (fiancé Jeremy Howey) of Carbondale, and Moira and Sinead Leahy of Wichita. Her sisters, Jerrie Smith of Denver, Colorado, Sister Janice Koelzer of Concordia, and Jo Richards of Tipton, also survive her. Visitation for Jane will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13th at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW. Urish Rd., Topeka, KS 66614 with a parish rosary beginning at 8 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 14th at Christ the King Catholic Church with interment at Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery. Memorial Contributions may be made to the Helping Hands Humane Society and Christ the King Catholic Church and sent in care of the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jane O'Hara*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

JF

“ *Mrs. O'Hara was my 4th grade teacher at Sheldon School. I just discovered her passing and wanted to send my thoughts to the family, even though she passed 3 years ago.*

Mrs. O'Hara was the most wonderful teacher I had through my years as a student. She was so nice to me and always took the time to encourage me in all my schoolwork. I will never forget how excited I got when we made handmade kites and she would let us go on special outings to fly them. That was a long time ago.....but I can still remember the joy she brought to my school days. It was the one year of school I actually looked forward to! Thank you Mrs. O'Hara for making my 4th grade year a happy one. God Bless You for the lives you touched.

Jane Firestone - April 02, 2012 at 10:08 AM

MS

“ *Mrs. O'Hara was my fifth-grade teacher at McClure Elementary school--I think I was in her class somewhere around 1986 or so. She was an amazing and inspirational teacher, and she had a huge impact on my life and career--I think I'm a better student and a better writer because of her. I've been lucky enough to teach a few classes of my own along the way, and I only hope that I have a quarter of the impact on my students that Mrs. O'Hara had on me.*

I am very, very sorry to hear of your loss.

Mary Strahan - May 19, 2009 at 04:33 PM

RC

“ *Dear Joe and Family. I am very sorry to hear about your loss. I attended the viewing but was not able to get to the funeral. My Prayers are with you all. In Deepest Sympathy Ron Cowan*

Ron Cowan - May 18, 2009 at 02:43 PM

TR

“ *Pati,*

I am so very sorry to hear about your Mom. My thought & prayers are with you!

*Sincerely,
Teri Rogers*

Teri Rogers - May 15, 2009 at 03:11 PM

RN

“ *Brigid, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I'm sorry for your loss, but know that she lives on in that you are who you are because of her influence.*

Rosa Nees - May 14, 2009 at 12:10 PM

RW

“ *Brigid, I am so sorry for the loss of your Mother. May God give you strength and peace.*

Sincerely, Rhonda Weaver

Rhonda Weaver - May 14, 2009 at 09:23 AM

CH

“ *Dear Uncle Joe, Deni, Patti, Sean and families,*

*We were so sorry to hear about Aunt Jane's passing. She will be dearly missed by all that knew her. She was a wonderful woman with a beautiful soul and giving heart. When I think of her I remember her huge smile and her infectious laughter. We know that she is shining bright in the light of heaven and looking down on her loving family. May Gods Blessings help you all during this difficult time. Fondly,
Colleen, Tom, Maureen and Megan*

Colleen Hannen - May 13, 2009 at 04:34 PM

KS

“ *Joe, sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts are with you and your family. Please be well and take heart in the good times, they will see you through this. The kids and I will remember Jane and your family in our prayers.*

Keith Smith - May 13, 2009 at 02:35 PM

KA

“ Dear Uncle Joe, Deni, Patti and Sean and families,
We were so sad to hear about Aunt Jane's passing. Jane was always so full of life and fun and I know you will miss her greatly! You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I'm sorry we can't be there with you to celebrate her life.
I hope your memories bring you some strength and comfort at this time. Love,
Katie, Don, Amy and Jacquie

Katie Altman - May 13, 2009 at 10:18 AM

JB

“ To Deni and family -- My sympathy on your loss. No matter how old you are, you miss your mom when she's gone. God be with you all during this difficult time.

Janelle Volz Burgardt - May 12, 2009 at 09:10 PM

BO

“ Uncle Joe, Deni, Patti and Sean,
I was deeply saddened to hear of Aunt Jane's passing. I know how difficult this must be for you. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Jane was such a kind and gentle soul. I will always remember her smile and laugh. May God bless you and your family during this time and always.
Love,
B.J., Sheri, Haley, McKenzie and Abby

B.J. OHara - May 11, 2009 at 11:14 PM

SW

“ Joe and Family,

Our deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family at this most difficult time. Jane was a very special person and I will always have the fondest memories of her. You all are in our prayers.

Love,

Rick, Susie, Matthew and Michael Welsh-Owens

Susie Welsh-Owens - May 11, 2009 at 04:01 PM