

SISTER JANE FRANCES of the SACRED HEART EDRALIN, SPC

(JUNE 25, 1908 TO MARCH 09, 2016)

Sister Jane Frances of the Sacred Heart Edralin whose baptismal name was Elisa, belonged to the big family of Juan Edralin and Juana Quevedo of Sarrat, Ilocos Norte. She was the seventh in a brood of eight, five girls and three boys. Three of the girls became nuns, one Dominican, one RYM, one Sister of St. Paul, Sr. Jane and one Jesuit, the well-known preacher Fr. Isaias Edralin. Two of the three sons got married and raised families. Sister Jane outlived all her siblings. She would be 108 years old at her next birthday, June 25, 2016 but the Lord took her to Himself last March 09 at the age of 107 years old, eight months and 15 days.

Several weeks before her death she would pray aloud repeating over and over sometimes chanting the words in her native dialect "Apo, kasianak. Apo, pakawanen nak." (Lord, have mercy on me. Lord, forgive me). She was a docile patient and gave no problem to the nurses and caregivers. Her mind was lucid but she had become hard of hearing. Up to Last year she was still strong enough to navigate distances propelling her wheelchair by herself, and to read the papers and magazines.

Aside from the fact that she is the only Sister of St. Paul all over the world who has reached 107 years of age, it is interesting to note that she was the first cousin of Dona Josefa Edralin, mother of president Ferdinand Marcos. She used to help take care of the young Ferdinand while his mother was busy teaching at the public elementary school. She had no further contact with the Marcoses after that as she pursued her own dreams. Another figure in the Philippine Church history is that she took care of another young nephew Orlando Quevedo, who would become the fourth Filipino Cardinal - Archbishop and who has been serving the Church of Cotabato for many years.

Sister Jane had her basic education at the public elementary school in Sarrat, and Rosary Academy in Vigan for high school that brought her into her first contact with the Sisters of St. Paul. After her high school graduation she found out that the school run by the Holy Ghost Sisters in Laoag, Ilocos Norte needed teachers. She applied together with two other classmates for the position and were accepted. The following years, although she was asked to continue teaching grade seven, she enrolled for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at the University of Santo Thomas. Upon passing the board, she applied and was readily accepted to work as a pharmacist at the Notre Dame de Lourdes Hospital in Btgiuo with the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres. This employment was cut short when she joined the congregation as an aspirant on June 07, 1933. She became a novice on June 01, 1934; made her profession on May 31, 1936, and her perpetual profession on May 31, 1941.

As a novice she was assigned as pharmacist and did office work. This was the start of a long affiliation with Nortre Dame de Lourdes Hospital for 34 years before, during and after World War ii. She became a the first Filipino sister to become Superior of the hospital. After her two terms of six years as Superior, her assignment to serve in the same hospital continued until 1969 when she was sent to St. Paul Hospital where she served as a pharmacist and in-charge of the hospital canteen for 13 years, and pharmacist at Maria Reyna Hospital in Cagayan de Oro for the next two years. At the age of 76, she was assigned as pharmacist and in-charge of the canteen staff at the Patronato in Singalong for the next three years. She was aging and her superiors found it necessary to send her to SPC Vigil House in 1987. She was 79 years and the years of hard work behind her were taking their toll on her.

Sister Jane, you have certainly contributed very much to the growth of our Congregation in the Philippines. God has gifted you with intellectual and administrative abilities. He gifted you with a keen memory and musical aptitude. You used them all in His service.

During the Second World War, when the Japanese occupied our land, you cooperated with the remaining American soldier prisoners to outsmart the Japanese soldiers. You were loyal to your ailing French Superiors, helping to take good care of them while you hiked from a burning hospital over hills and valleys to the ilocos. You helped in no small way to put up the hospital which had been reduced to ashes during the carpet bombing during the War for liberation. All these and more you described so vividly with your pen no wonder you became so tired at the age of 79.

God saw you and inspired your superiors to have you rest and prepare for His coming. Now the battle is over You could look back over the years with gratitude to our Lord for giving you a full life and a time to say sorry for your failings as a normal human being. Thank you for giving us a good example of fidelity for living our remaining years. Pray for us as we prepare for our own departure from this world. Rest in peace and meet us please when the Lord takes us home.