



*ne Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
enwood, Albany, New York, ask you to remember  
your prayers and Masses, their dear sister*

*Florence Ashe*

---

*ho died on June 4, 1993 in the  
38th year of her age, and 58th year of her  
religious profession, having received all the  
prayers of the Church.*

FLORENCE ASHE, R.S.C.J.  
1905 - 1993

Sr. Florence Ashe has left us with memories of her very real sense of joy and of wonder. Even in the last years of gradual diminishment she remained her smiling, gracious self. Many friends, especially the Elmhurst Alumnae, continued to be her faithful correspondents and visitors here at Kenwood.

Apparently both joy and wonder were characteristic of Florence in her early years also. Born in Rochester, New York, on December 23, 1905, she grew up with her older sister, Mary, in a happy, peaceful household. When she attended the Academy of the Sacred Heart at Prince Street, she came under the strong influence of Mother Lawlor, then Mistress General. The latter noticed Florence's frequent visits to the nearby church and encouraged her deepening spiritual interest. At the same time Florence was developing a genuine love of dance, a form of prayer for her and a gift which became one of her most costly sacrifices when she decided to enter the Society of the Sacred Heart.

Florence entered the Society at Kenwood in 1926. As a postulant, she went home when her mother died, but she returned to the noviceship afterwards and made her first vows in 1929. In 1935, Sr. Ashe was professed in Rome. It was two years later, when she became Mistress General at Overbrook, that she began her work as an administrator. This was a ministry made difficult because Sr. Ashe tended to be both naive and scrupulous. Those who worked with her soon learned to carry out her wishes quickly before she could change her mind! It was at Elmhurst that Sr. Ashe seemed to have the greatest influence. During her term as superior there she supervised the transfer of the Convent and the construction of the school building at the new site in Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

After seventeen years as a superior, Sr. Ashe began another fruitful apostolate, a lively correspondence with former pupils devoted to her. A letter to "Elmhurst lovers" on the closing of Elmhurst expressed well her understanding of the traumatic events of the Sixties. Sr. Ashe wrote: "Perhaps this (closing) is Our Lord's way of shaking us into deeper consciousness of the values which we must examine in a new and changing world, for the world is changing."

In 1969, after a move to Washington, D.C., Sr. Ashe devoted herself to work among the poor as a tutor and visitor and later as a hospice worker. She left Washington for Kenwood in 1985. At Kenwood she devoted herself at first to visiting the sick. When failing memory made this impossible, she began a life of silent prayer in the Infirmary welcoming others with a quiet smile. She died peacefully on the morning of June 4, 1993, leaving behind the memory of a loving R.S.C.J. who found wonder and joy in her life and in her vocation.