



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton

Joy in Christ
100 Jubilee
1912-2012

Jubilee 100 Biography Project

Biography of Helen Kazeil

Submitted by St. Clare Parish, Edmonton AB

Helen Kazeil loved the Church! She was an active, but often behind-the-scenes, member of St. Clare's Church for over 40 years until the day of her death on January 29, 2012, her 81st birthday. Helen was an extremely caring and generous person, often fulfilling the tasks in everyday parish life that few would recognize or acknowledge or even desire to do. For this reason, Helen Kazeil is our parishioner-of-honour whose name we bring forward in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

Helen was a faithful practising Catholic all her life, but by the time her oldest son Joe reached the age of about 10 years, Helen gave her "all" to St. Clare's Parish. The Catholic Women's League opened for Helen the gateway to a life of ongoing service. As a new CWL member, Helen became involved in many of the League's activities of the day. Perhaps the activity she loved the most was assisting the pastor in the celebration of funerals. She wanted to altar-serve every funeral, and she did so for many years. She, together with her friend Eva Reichert, attended to all the details of setup for the liturgy, and carried their service right through the Mass and to the end of the funeral luncheon. She wanted to contribute toward a beautiful and meaningful liturgy and follow-up reception for the comfort of the grieving family.

Helen was devoted to the various pastors serving St. Clare's over the years. In addition to funeral assistance, she, along with Eva Ferbey and Emily Walls, tended to sacristan's duties faithfully every Friday morning. That work, often unnoticed, included the laundering or dry-cleaning of clergy vestments, altar linens and altar servers' robes. She was meticulous in the cleanliness and tidiness of the sacristy, the altar, the candles and even the pew boxes. Living just half a block from the church, Helen was the first person to be called or visited when the pastor was away. She carefully guarded the key, but used it often, whenever anyone needed to get into the church. Countless times, it was Helen who trekked over the church to shut off the pesky alarm system and check the building security.

Eucharistic ministry was another of Helen's loves. She served as an auxiliary minister at Mass and brought the Eucharist to the sick and shut-ins in their homes, and, faithfully, every Thursday, for many years to the seniors at Virginia Park Lodge.

Bill Kazeil, Helen's husband, was the overseer of St. Clare's well-known and world-famous (well, almost!) hockey program for the youth of the parish. Helen loved to help Bill in whatever way she could. Similarly, she was supportive of one of the church's fundraising efforts, the Saturday Bingo night, where she served in tireless and faithful ways: in the kitchen, the concession, in the selling of thousands of Nevada tickets, and even in the recycling of bottles and cans.

In all her service, including helping with church decorating for all the liturgical seasons, and even shopping for candles, sacramental wine or anything else that was needed for the smooth operation of the daily life in the parish, much joy and satisfaction was brought to Helen's life.

Where would the parish community be without the service of generous and faithful stewards? Helen Kazeil, St. Clare's salutes you and thanks you for role-modelling a life of generosity in the service of Christ and the Church.