

Sallyann Lessner McCarthy



Sallyann Lessner McCarthy was born in Chicago, Illinois on May 10, 1941, the daughter of George J. and Florence Albrecht Lessner. She graduated from Alleman High School, Rock Island, Illinois in 1959 and from Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois in 1963, with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater.

Sallyann and Robert J. McCarthy were united in marriage at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Moline, Illinois, on September 3, 1966. Together they raised their children in Muscatine and Clinton, Iowa.

They are the parents of Pegeen F. McCarthy Haigwood (Shawn), Iowa City, Iowa, Robert J. McCarthy, Jr. (Kelly) of Clinton, Iowa, Peter J. McCarthy of Iowa City, Iowa, Kevin T. McCarthy of Des Moines, Iowa, and Laura A. McCarthy O'Hara (Gavin) of Chicago, Illinois. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Harper and Eleri Haigwood, of Iowa City, Iowa, a brother, Richard T. Lessner of Bluffton, South Carolina, mother-in-law, Eileen McCarthy of San Diego, California, sisters-in-law, Nancy McCarthy, BVM of Chicago, Illinois, Kathy Bonner (Andrew) of Vashon Island, Washington, Anne Larson (Ed), Tisa McCarthy Beck, brother-in-laws Michael McCarthy (Sharon) and Gary McCarthy, and James McCarthy of San Diego, California, a niece Danielle Lessner Henricksen (David) and great-nephew Andrew Henricksen of Belvidere, Illinois, and a niece Netanya Lessner Dilsaver (Tim) of Carey, Illinois.

Sallyann was a member of National Communicators Network for Women Religious, a founding Member of Sisters United News of the Upper Mississippi River Valley and a Member of Clinton Peace Coalition. Sallyann was also a member of the Muscatine Housing Commission, during which time she published "Historic Tour of Old Muscatine." She was a member of A.A.U.W., the Quad Cities Genesis Guild, the Iowa Catholic Conference, the Social Justice Ministry, Pax Christi, the Peru Task Force (Chair) and the Davenport Diocesan Action Commission. She was also active as a Lector within the Prince of Peace Parish, Clinton, where she was a member for 35 years. Robert and Sallyann made their commitment as Associates of the Sisters of St. Francis in 2001. In 1987 she received the YWCA Women of Achievement Award and in 2012 received the Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace and Justice Award.



Sallyann and Bob were Associates of the Clinton Franciscans for 12 years



Sallyann Lessner McCarthy, beloved mother and grandmother, ended her earthly days quietly and peacefully with her husband and children at her side on Wednesday, August 7, 2013, at their home in Coralville, Iowa. Sallyann was preceded in death by her parents.

Condolences may be expressed online at <http://>



2012, Sallyann received the Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace and Justice Award

Sallyann began working for the Sisters of St. Francis in 1987. She was Secretary to five presidents, Director of Communications and the Co-Coordinator for the Center for Active Nonviolence.

