

**Sister Marie Clair (formerly Sister M. Christopher) 70 years**

Sister Marie Clair joined the Sisters of St. Francis in Millvale from Sacred Heart Parish in Emsworth, Pa. Marie taught children in the primary grades for 48 years and then continued teaching in the after-school program at Northview Heights (Pittsburgh) and at Mount Alvernia Day Care and Learning Center. She especially enjoyed the years she spent teaching children in the third grade. She said, "The children could help themselves, were willing to learn and could put on little plays."

After her years in the classroom, Sister Marie served as sacristan at Mount Alvernia for many years, preparing the altar for daily Mass and community celebrations, and tending to the sacred vessels.

Today, Marie is involved in a number of community services, including volunteering her time at Alverno apartments each week and leading community prayers.

Sister Marie says her aunt, Sister M. Berchman Clair, influenced her in her decision to follow the Millvale Franciscan way of life. "Sister Berchman kept encouraging me until I decided to enter the community and find out for myself," she said.

She adds that she is very grateful to her parents and family for all the love and support she received from them during her life. The eldest of 10 siblings, Sister Marie always speaks lovingly of them. She says, "My mother died the day I was born, but God provided so well, and I grew up in a wonderful family for which I am most grateful." Many of them now live in California and Arizona, but she adds, "We have had great reunions."

Sister Marie hopes that in the future young women who feel called to religious life will consider the call and take seriously the grace offered them by God. She would say to them, "Ponder, think and pray for the courage to come. Join us and find out what God has to offer you."