

Sister Anne Kelley, RGS

(August 29, 1947 – January 31, 2025)

With deep gratitude for a life of boundless compassion and service, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd announce the passing of Sr. Anne Kelley, RGS, who peacefully entered eternal life on January 31, 2025, in San Francisco, California.

Born in Los Angeles, California, to James Charles Kelley and Margaret Fitzgerrell, Anne Cecelia Kelley was the beloved sister of Dr. James Kelley, Kathleen Dooling, Margaret Daniels, and her twin, Peter Kelley. From an early age, she radiated a spirit of adventure, conviction, and a deep concern for those in need—qualities that would define her life’s mission.

At 18 years old, she answered the call to serve, entering the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Los Angeles. Over the next six decades, Sr. Anne became a force of unwavering kindness and fierce advocacy for the vulnerable—whether tending to elderly sisters with a nurse’s healing touch, guiding at-risk girls toward brighter futures, or transforming shelters into sanctuaries of hope for women and children escaping violence.

A Life of Service and Vision

Sr. Anne began her ministry as a nurse, earning her degree from DePaul Hospital School of Nursing in 1976. Her passion for social work and empowerment led her beyond medicine—she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work from Saint Louis University in 1981 and later

continued her lifelong commitment to learning with a sabbatical at Milton University in Dublin, Ireland, in 1994.

Wherever she was assigned—whether in Ireland, Rome, St. Louis, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Chicago, Los Angeles, or San Francisco—Sr. Anne left an indelible mark, creating spaces of safety, dignity, and transformation that are rooted in compassion and Good Shepherd values.

In 1996, Sr. Anne stepped into her most influential role as Director and CEO of Good Shepherd Shelter in Los Angeles, where, for 19 years, she transformed a modest refuge into a nationally recognized model for healing and empowerment. She built a community where survivors of domestic violence could reclaim their lives with dignity and strength. She also raised funds, cultivated volunteers, and ensured that every mother and child who walked through the doors found a path to independence. She believed in the power of education, opportunity, and faith to break the cycle of abuse and worked tirelessly to give survivors the tools to thrive.

While in Los Angeles, Sr. Anne’s mission extended globally through Handcrafting Justice, advocating for economic fairness for women artisans. She understood the power of storytelling and never hesitated to stand before affluent parishioners in Beverly Hills and Pasadena, sharing the stories of women whose handcrafted

goods gave them dignity and survival. Her words moved people to act, raising more funds for these women than any other Handcrafting Justice program location.

Transforming Elder Care with Compassion

While Sr. Anne's work at Good Shepherd Shelter and Handcrafting Justice empowered women in Los Angeles and beyond, her commitment to dignity and care was evident long before in residential and group homes for girls and at Immaculate Heart Convent in St. Louis, where she tended to aging sisters with the same compassion she later extended to survivors of domestic violence and at-risk girls. She saw beyond medical care, recognizing that these sisters—who had devoted their lives to service—deserved not just comfort, but community, companionship, and dignity in their final years.

With characteristic tenacity and vision, she spearheaded the expansion of the infirmary at Immaculate Heart, ensuring that dining and activity rooms were added so sisters could gather, share meals, and engage in joyful moments together rather than remain isolated in their rooms. She reimagined elder care, designing soft adaptive clothing for aging sisters and ensuring they had comfortable pillows, cushions, bolsters, and neck braces.

A Brief Pause, Then More Mission Work

After decades of tireless dedication and visionary leadership, Sr. Anne took a well-earned sabbatical in 2015, traveling



through Panama and South America with her brother Jim on a National Geographic eco-expedition. Immersing herself in the beauty of creation, she reflected on Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Yet, even in moments of reflection, her spirit of service remained ever active.

Upon her return, she continued her social service work in San Francisco, serving at Good Shepherd Gracenter, where she helped women reclaim their lives from addiction. For Sr. Anne, every mission was about more than care—it was about dignity, connection, and, above all, love.

A Legacy of Joy and Advocacy

Sr. Anne had the rare gift of presence—of showing up, of seeing people deeply, and of lifting them toward the light. Her life was a testament to resilience, advocacy, and faith in action. She never sought recognition, but in 2016, she was honored by the Good Shepherd Shelter Women's Guild with the Lifetime Achievement Angel Award—an honor she humbly shared with all who had walked alongside her in service.

She brought joy to others through playful spontaneity, music, and selecting songs

for liturgies so at-risk girls, survivors of domestic violence, and even the youngest shelter children could sing along.

Sr. Anne was preceded in death by her parents, James Charles Kelley and Margaret Fitzgerald Kelley, her sister Margaret Daniels, and her twin brother, Peter Kelley. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Joan Kelley, wife of Peter, and their daughters, Grace and Heather; her brother, Jim Kelley, and his wife, Susan, along with their children, Jason Kelley and Megan Lambdin; her sister, Kathleen Dooling, and her husband, Michael, and their children, Joe Dooling, Tim Dooling, Bridget Uzzelle, and Katie Raffetto; and her brother-in-law, Dan Daniels, husband of Margaret, and, after Margaret's passing, husband to Judy Daniels, and their sons, Chris Daniels and Duff Daniels. She also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews, as well as her beloved companion, Gracie—one of the many dogs Sr. Anne rescued and cherished throughout her well-lived life.

Sr. Anne leaves behind a legacy of love and transformation that will continue to ripple through the countless lives she touched. Everything she did was for the betterment of others.

Rest in peace, Sr. Anne. Your work here is done, but your spirit lives on.

The funeral mass for Sr. Anne will be held on March 3, 2025, at 11am PST at Holy Family Catholic Church, 1501 Fremont Ave. South Pasadena, California, 91030.

Presider is Msgr. Clement J. Connolly. In lieu of flowers and gifts, checks or money orders can be sent to:

Good Shepherd Shelter
P.O. Box 19487
Los Angeles, CA 90019

or online donation for Good Shepherd Shelter

<https://catholiccharitiesla.org/gss-donate/>

or Good Shepherd Gracenter
1310 Bacon Street
San Francisco, CA 94134
gsgracenter.org

