

Mary Jane Ihle Clark



In her lifetime, Mary Jane Ihle Clark was a generous supporter of the Catholic Church, her local parish and Catholic school education. “I attended Catholic school during my formative years and it provided a foundation of faith that stayed with me to this day,” said Clark.

She also turned to her faith to help overcome her physical disabilities. Shortly after Clark was born, she contracted polio, which greatly affected her body. Throughout her life she had to constantly overcome the disability and fight to be seen as equal. It was her faith in God and Jesus’ teachings of helping others that kept her spirits high and a passion to help others less fortunate.

Clark did not let her ailments stop her from accomplishing her goals. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin and a Master’s of Social Work from Wayne State University. She used her formal training to help other disabled individuals in Wisconsin and after moving to San Antonio, directed her efforts locally, as she was instrumental in having handicap railings installed at the former Chancery building so all individuals could have easy access to the facility.

“It’s (the Catholic faith) been my life. It’s my usual prayers, it’s my daily living and it’s my appreciation for my religion,” said Clark. “I want to leave a lasting legacy that will help needy children and their families enjoy a Catholic school education. An education that greatly benefited me, and I hope one day will help others overcome their own obstacles.”

Mary Jane passed away on May 6, 2018 at the age of 101. She committed a bequest to several ministries of the Catholic Church, including the Hope for the Future Endowment, the CTSA Endowment and the Poor Parish Endowment Fund, ensuring that her and her husband’s dreams of helping the poor and disadvantaged continues well into the future.