

Iconic Chaplain Who Inspired Generations Dies at 106

Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, the devoted chaplain of Loyola University Chicago and a treasured spiritual mentor, passed away at the extraordinary age of 106. Her life was a shining example of faith, dedication and the enduring impact of a life surrendered to God's calling.

Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!

Born in San Francisco in 1919, Sister Jean embraced her vocation early, entering the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1937. She spent decades teaching, coaching, and nurturing young minds across Chicago, Los Angeles and North Hollywood, always prioritizing the spiritual growth and well-being of her students. Her commitment to guiding others set a standard of faithful service that would follow her throughout her life.

In 1961, Sister Jean joined Loyola University Chicago, where she became a cornerstone of the campus community. For more than 60 years, she provided spiritual guidance, prayerful support and compassionate mentorship to students, faculty and staff. Generations of Loyola students came to know her as a steadfast source of wisdom and encouragement, someone whose faith and joy were contagious.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Sister Jean's influence extended far beyond the university when she captured the nation's attention during Loyola's 2018 NCAA Tournament run. Her presence on the sidelines, complete with a maroon-and-gold scarf, inspired players and fans alike. Her thoughtful prayers and heartfelt cheers became emblematic of hope and perseverance, earning her admiration across the sports world. Media coverage of her appearances often rivaled that of top athletes, reflecting the unique blend of charisma, faith and authenticity she brought to every moment.

Even into her centenarian years, Sister Jean remained a vibrant example of living faith. She celebrated her 106 birthday in September 2025 and shortly thereafter announced her retirement from formal duties due to health concerns. Yet even as she stepped back, her influence and legacy continued to resonate, a testament to a life defined by prayer, love, and service.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

Sister Jean's legacy is a powerful reminder that true greatness is measured not by fame or accolades but by the lives we touch and the faith we impart. Her devotion to God, her compassion for others, and her joyful spirit leave an indelible mark on the Loyola community, the Church and countless believers across the nation.

Prepared by Charisma Media Staff.