



## Jean Krejci, PhD

August 16, 1934 - November 30, 2024

Jean Krejci, PhD, (Mary Jean Gettelfinger) devoted wife, mother, grandmother, former Benedictine nun, teacher, anthropologist, Family Therapist, and Diversity Educator, died on November 30, 2024 in San Antonio, Texas. She was 90.

Born in Palmyra, Indiana, Jean was one of 12 children in a Catholic farm family. With her strong Catholic upbringing, she entered the convent at age 15 in the Monastery of Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN. Upon completion of her vows, she taught English in Indiana. As a nun, she studied Spanish intensively and spent ten years as a missionary/educator in Bogota and Cali, Colombia. However, by the late 1960s, motivated by social justice and women's rights, she left the convent for Notre Dame.

There, she obtained her Masters in anthropology and met her future husband (former priest) John Krejci. It was an instant attraction with many common interests. They worshipped and protested together while he taught her to ice skate and fish. Their "secret" marriage in the Chapel under the Golden dome became campus lore. Together they embarked on a 20-year anthropologic study in remote mountains of Mexico.

Jean and John settled in Nebraska, raising 3 children while she worked as a

family therapist. One of her proudest accomplishments was earning her Ph.D. through the University of Nebraska Lincoln at age 57. With this, she advocated for minorities and the disadvantaged through the Healthy Homes Program and as the Diversity Director for the Lincoln Health Department. She continued to lecture on wellness and cultural competency into her 80s. Jean loved folk music and singing in church. Jean and John celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2021, shortly before his death. Once widowed, she moved to San Antonio, TX with her daughter where she enjoyed warm weather and a full life of family, friendship, music, and Nebraska football games to the end.

Jean is survived by her three children, John Mark Krejci Ph.D. and Jeanie Krejci of Lincoln; Jennifer Krejci-Manwaring M.D., son-in-law Ted Manwaring, and grandchildren, Merric and Morgan Manwaring of San Antonio, TX; her sisters Sr. Norma Gettelfinger and Carol Gettelfinger of Indiana, She is preceded in death by her husband John Krejci, siblings: Thelma Lewis, Jim, Harold , Frank, Sr. Ann Janette, Tom, and Dennis Gettelfinger.

Funeral Mass will be held at St. Matthew's Church in San Antonio December 17th at 2:00, streaming service will be available on this memorial. Please join for a gathering of family and friends immediately following the service at St. Matthew's Parish Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Center for People in Lincoln, Nebraska ~ <https://centerforpeople.org/>

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

DEC 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Matthew's Catholic Church  
10703 Wurzbach Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78230

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of Jean Krejci, PhD*



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**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - December 13, 2024 at 05:19 PM

DI

“ *Jean played an important role in the decision to move to Nebraska. Over the years she and Joni became valued friends and colleagues and our families became interwoven. Jean was a beacon of light, illuminating the path to social justice and human dignity. Her kindness, charitable spirit, and steadfast commitment to living her Christian values through action, not simply words, set her apart in a world of bluster, intolerance and persecution. Humble in discourse, gentle in encouragement, wise in counsel Jean modeled life in a better world. We miss you Jean and know that you walk with angels in heaven with the same equanimity that you walked with sinners on earth.*

*David and Pam laquinta*

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**David laquinta** - December 17, 2024 at 08:13 PM

DF

“ *Dr. Emily Marx and your RAST Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Jean Krejci, PhD.*



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**Dr. Emily Marx and your RAST Family** - December 16, 2024 at 10:57 AM



“ *Divine Light was purchased for the family of Jean Krejci, PhD.*



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December 15, 2024 at 06:26 AM

SB

“ *Jean was one of the greatest kindest people we had the pleasure to know and work with. She lead our Healthy Homes program with a calm and sincere concern for those who had few or no health and/or human service connections. She will always remain in our hearts and memories. Steve Beal, Charlotte Burke, Cindy Peters, Anh Tran, Marilyn Bilka and many others from the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department. God's Blessings to her and her family.*

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**Steve Beal** - December 12, 2024 at 12:14 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jean Krejci, PhD.*



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December 10, 2024 at 06:03 PM

SA

“ Jean was an amazing woman. She shared her wisdom and caring perspective with my Public Health Nursing students for many years. she was also a great lunch partner

Shirely Achord - December 10, 2024 at 12:10 PM

JK

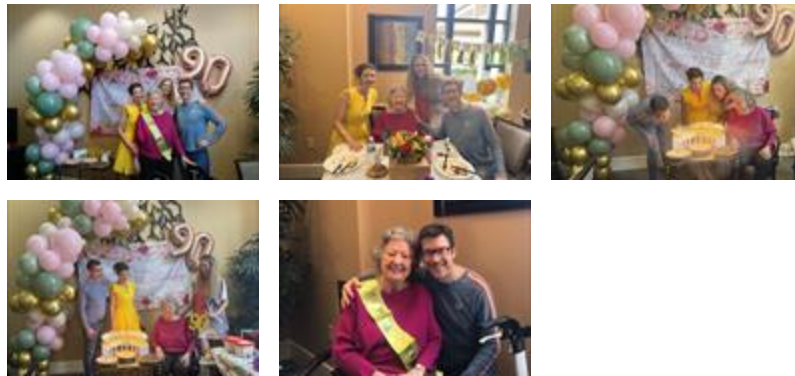
“ Jenn Krejci lit a candle in memory of Jean Krejci, PhD



Jenn Krejci - December 09, 2024 at 06:08 PM

JK

“ 16 files added to the album from Jenn



Jenn Krejci - December 09, 2024 at 06:08 PM

AB

“ I would often see John and Jean at protests outside the Nebraska governor's mansion. When it became difficult for them to stand, they would bring their folding chairs. They were so inspiring. I later met their son, who I knew only as John Mark, at Unity Lincoln and discovered that they were his parents. They have left two outstanding legacies in social work and parenting.

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**Adeline Berry** - December 08, 2024 at 02:16 PM



“ Jennifer, I am so saddened to learn of the passing of your amazing mother! Jean was such a spunky lady, always a smile on her face! I am so glad that I had the opportunity to know her, even if for a short while. Please know my thoughts are with you all. Take care, Mindy Gossen Eisen

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**Mindy Eisen** - December 06, 2024 at 04:24 PM

JK

Thank you Mindy! You helped us find a great place for her. She loved Adante.

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**Jenn Krejci** - December 12, 2024 at 10:01 PM