

# Allegany *Connections*

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# Franciscan Federation Members Make Pilgrimage to Jamaica

By: Chris Tenn, OSF



Franciscan Federation Region II Committee members Sandra Lyons (Chairperson), a Bernardine Franciscan; Pat Brennan, a School Sister of St. Francis; and I arrived at Norman Manley Airport in Kingston, Jamaica, on the night of December 26 and were met by Gwen Melhado who graciously volunteered to drive us to Immaculate. The purpose of our pilgrimage was to participate in the FSA's retreat at Immaculate, meet with the Franciscan groups, share the Franciscan Federation's history and its evolution, raise awareness about the 50th anniversary and the AFC in Milwaukee, June 17-20 and to visit the mission projects.

The retreat director was Fr. Dennis Mason, OFM Conv., and we were treated to an enriching spiritual experience. Highlights

us how opportune and God-sent it was for us to be sharing with her as she would like her congregation to reconnect with the Federation. We enjoyed a delicious Sunday dinner with their Motherhouse community.

A group of twelve students and two Friars from Siena College arrived on Sunday, and the next day, Grace being the wonderful organizer, included us on a tour of the inner city and Trench Town where Bob Marley lived his early years. A stop at Devon House for gourmet patties and "I-Cream" was a must and Craft Cottage for those who wanted a Jamaican souvenir.

Maureen Clare Hall drove Sandra, Pat and me to New Kingston and we took the Knutsford Bus to Montego Bay to visit the Compassionate Franciscan Sisters of the Poor (CFSOP). We had an informal meeting at the supper table about the Federation and the AFC to which much interest was shown and Mother Joy (or MoJo as she likes to be called), the newly elected General Superior, expressed her gratitude to the FSA's at Immaculate for their hospitality and generosity in including them in so many ways. We visited the Brenda Stafford Clinic and Hospice where they minister. We were in awe of all they have accomplished and complimented them on the bright, airy, home-



like atmosphere at the Hospice.

Pat and Sandra had not packed swim suits, Trinita loaned tank tops and shorts to them so they could take a dip in the beautiful blue Caribbean Sea at Doctor's Cave Beach. I was able to spend the afternoon with my cousin, Hazel., Hazel. The CFSOP, or "Brownies" as we fondly call them, MoJo and Marie Con, offered to drive us back to Kingston; we stopped at Dunns River Falls

and Turtle Park where we enjoyed the lush greenery, the beautiful waterfalls, the pond with huge koi fish and the colorful birds in the aviary.

The day before Pat and Sandra's

departure was designated a quiet, reflective day so they would be rested fro travel and their 6:30 am departure. Teresita and I saw them off at the airport. BON VOYAGE!

Sandra, Pat and I are full of gratitude for the warm welcome we received from everyone and thank God for their Franciscan hospitality and generosity. Many blessings in 2016!

included Community Life, the Three Vows, the inevitability of change, the Francis factor – WAKE UP spread the Gospel of HOPE, time to recall the touchstone moments in life, and the reminder that "Silence is the language of God, everything else is poor translation" Keating.

After the retreat, Grace Yap hired a bus and the group went to the Porziuncola Farm in Braes River, we met with the staff, saw the planted crops and were served the most delicious janga (crayfish) soup and bammy. That evening the Braes River community had a fund-raising banquet.

Many thanks to Grace for extending herself to be our tour guide and to Gwen, who provided the St. Joseph's Teachers College Minibus, so we were able to visit Dolphin Cove and have lunch at the Jerk Center in Ocho Rios.

We had a meeting about the Franciscan Federation with Sr. Andrew, the congregational leader of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Sr. Andrew told

# Flying with God

By: Msgr. Robert Fuhrman, Pastor,  
Church of St. Philomena, Livingston, NJ  
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Pictured, from left:  
Astronaut David Lowe  
Astronaut Mike Hopkins  
Astronaut Kevin Chilton

A priest friend recently sent me a most unusual article that I find special. Did you know that the Holy Eucharist, the Most Blessed Sacrament, Jesus himself, has been taken aboard Space Shuttle flights and trips to the International Space Station (ISS) by Catholic astronauts? I didn't know. It has happened at least seven times, due to the Catholic commitment of the astronauts. The first to carry the Blessed Sacrament was astronaut G. David Low, who did so on each of his three Shuttle flights in 1991, '92, and '93. Low died of cancer at only 52.

In September of 2013, astronaut Mike Hopkins, 45, a convert to the Catholic Faith, was given special permission through the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to carry a pyx (small vessel for the Blessed Sacrament) on his 24 week journey to the ISS. He brought six consecrated hosts, each broken into four pieces, and so he could receive the Lord weekly for his entire voyage. "It was extremely, extremely important to me," said Hopkins, who grew up on a farm in Missouri, in a United Methodist family but completed the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes and became Catholic soon before going into space. He said he wanted to become Catholic not just because his wife and two teenage sons were Catholic but because "I felt something was missing in my life." Hopkins completed two spacewalks with another astronaut. He consumed the final host upon leaving the ISS for his return trip home. "Those events can be stressful events," he told Catholic News Service from his office in Houston.

"Knowing Jesus was with me when I stepped out the door into the vacuum of space was important to me." Hopkins also brought with him the Sunday Mass readings to be fed by the Word of God while soaring in the infinity of space. Regarding the additional passenger on board, Hopkins said, "My crewmates knew I had the Eucharist with me. In fact, I coordinated with my Russian commander. He knew everything going on. They were all aware of that, but I never tried to make a large deal about it and publicize it and they didn't either. They respected my faith and my desire to follow that faith even when I was in orbit."

With a bit of research, I learned of three more Shuttle flights for the Lord. On a 1994 Shuttle mission, Catholic astronauts Gutierrez, Jones and Chilton (an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist) received Holy Communion on the Space Station flight deck 125 miles above the Pacific Ocean. With the Blessed Sacrament on board, the ISS literally became a starship, a chapel, a flying tabernacle. And on earth we can't get Catholics to go to Mass on Sundays!?

Do we ever teach children, or ourselves, to have heroes anymore? Are we too oblivious or caught up to even notice? I nominate these courageous and genuine Catholic astronauts, men who were led by Christ to the Catholic Faith and who have what every Catholic should have, a Eucharistic commitment and love! They are men who are willing to believe the words of Jesus, the

Bread of Life. These men demonstrate the way a Catholic should live his or her life, and achieve great things in the world as well. Real men are very solid Catholics, heroes in a world starved for heroes.

I have a brother, Tom, who was one of the top test pilots in the US Air Force, flying the famous SR-71 Blackbird in test flights for years. It turns out that Tom has known Kevin Chilton for 30 years or more! They flew together in Okinawa and were later classmates in Test Pilot School in California, and have remained close. He said that Chilton has now retired from the Air Force as a 4-star general, and he rightly called him a devout Catholic. What a nice way to be known! So my brother gave me General Chilton's email address. Within an hour of my note to him he answered and asked me to call him. We spoke for 20 minutes about the Faith and the Holy Eucharist in space. He related one very special story and gave me permission to tell you. There were six astronauts on the ISS. Three were sleeping and the three Catholics were awake, strapped in to the vessel as they flew at 17,500 mph on the dark side of the earth. Deciding it was a good opportunity to receive the Eucharist, the three prayed as the craft sped along in "perfect darkness." They each held the host, and simultaneously placed it on their tongues. At that instant they experienced a blast of "radiant heat that stunned me," Chilton said. "The front windows were facing the brightest white light I had ever seen!" It was the rising sun in a special kind of glory. General Chilton said, "It reminded me of

the Transfiguration of Christ," which the Gospel describes: "And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light (Matthew 17:2). He said the three astronauts looked at each other and all had tears in their eyes, knowing this to be a special Eucharistic blessing from God, as the sky went from black to unimaginable white to deepest blue. The timing of the blast of white was precisely the second they placed the Eucharist in their mouths. To this day, the General said, each of those men relates that story as "emotional and meaningful. All say it was one of the most memorable moments of the entire mission." Finally, General Chilton said, "It was an affirmation for me. It is cool to be Catholic and to be able to reflect on your Faith this way. This was not life-changing, but 'life-cementing' for me."

General Chilton became the highest-ranking astronaut in history, ultimately achieving four stars! I would like to get him here to St. Philomena someday. We chatted about that.

I highlight these men to emphasize that a life in Christ will help all of us to be quite productive and special in unexpected ways! These men all have "the right stuff" and they serve as excellent examples for all Catholics today. Each has pursued and achieved great excellence in life through a combination natural gifts, hard work, committed faith, and great opportunities. They are especially good examples for our children, youth, and anyone who has grown lukewarm in the Faith.

# *Congratulations, Jubilarians!*



*The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
And all creation is shouting for joy!  
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,  
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!*

On Saturday, May 28, 2016, seven Allegany Franciscans celebrated 50 years of religious life during the annual Golden Jubilee celebration.

## **Celebrating were:**

- Grace Yap OSF
- Frances O'Dell OSF
- Mary Ellen Tucker OSF
- Mary Croghan OSF
- Chris J. Treichel OSF
- M. Chris Doherty OSF
- Michele Dolyk OSF

The festive liturgy was presided over by David B. Couturier OFM Cap., with Concelebrants Thomas Walters OFM, Michael Duffy OFM, and Fr. David Tourville of St. Mary of the Angels Parish in Olean.



# News from the Associate Program



As part of their preparation for Chapter 2016, the associates have been asked to devote a good portion of their March, April, or May meetings to a reflection and discussion on the Charism of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany. Using material from NACAR (the North American Conference of Associates and Religious), the Associate Handbook, and The Wonderful Works of God, Jeanne Williams and Kathy Doyle have developed an outline to assist the associates in this endeavor.

The first session is geared to enhancing a deeper understanding of the Charism, asking the associates for examples of the Charism at work in the life of the sisters and Congregation, and explaining why the Charism resonates with the associates. The second part will revolve around the questions of what attracted the associates to the Allegany Franciscans and how they have seen the Charism become evident in their own lives – when an action or decision was made based on their understanding and integration of the Charism. And finally as Pope Francis said,

“The Charism...needs to be lived according to the places, times and persons” and because Mother Teresa O’Neil told the sisters, “to respond to the needs of the people”, the associates will reflect on how, in spite of the challenges of today’s world, the Sisters and Associates continue to live the charism as they move forward into the future.

Their reflections will be collected and brought to the May meeting of the Associate Advisory Committee (AAC), the Associate meetings at Chapter and the Joint Meeting of the Local Associate Coordinators (LACs) and the AAC in September for further discussion and follow-up.

We are grateful to the Miami bilingual associates, Ella Pulido, Alba Luz Meija Solis and Lisa Lama, who translated our brochure into Spanish. An updated brochure with the current list of LACs will be added to the Associate link on the new Congregational Website. Check out the website. It’s user friendly and much easier to access. Thank you Denise Bunk-Hatch! If you would like some Associate brochures in Spanish please contact Jeanne or Kathy.

Along that same vein, the Portuguese translation of the Associate Anniversary DVD continues to be “a work in progress.” It still needs recording and voice-over. We are working with Ellen Winger in the Archives to complete the project.

Kathy Doyle and Shirley Horta, associate from Catalan, Brazil, are “meeting” on FaceTime to help Kathy, who is using the free on-line Duolingo course, to improve her Portuguese. They had a bit of a difficulty when Shirley lost power just before the assigned time of their call, but hope to get together again very soon.



## Love Infused Gifts of God!

Did you know that a vessel for love could be found in your local Walgreens store? Well our Tampa Bay Area Sisters and Associates knew! Just imagine an excited group of Sisters and Associates eager to find something special for a hospitalized child, descending upon a local Bay Area store.

Initially, upon arrival, they spread out storewide, only to find themselves gathered together on the very same aisle filled with various stuffed animals of different sizes and colors. Much like the uniqueness of each child of God, every creature was special and showed great promise. If you have ever read the children’s story, The Velveteen Rabbit, then you already know what brings a simple stuffed creature to life. What else, but love itself! Much like our Blessed Mother who also was a vessel for God’s love, born to us at Christmas, the Sisters and Tampa Bay Associates hand

selected soft and cuddly teddy bears, giraffes and more to bestow upon the ailing children who had to spend Jesus’ Birthday in the hospital at All Children’s. Little did the children know that these were not ordinary stuffed animals, but vessels of God’s healing love, much like Baby

Jesus who we celebrated on Christmas.

Yes, each hand selected creature spent time with the giver, being given extra hugs, and infused with love and prayers before being prepared for the journey from the hearts of each giver to the waiting arms of a child in need.

Truly, through the generous gift our Allegany Franciscan Sisters and the Associates of Tampa Bay, working in conjunction with the Ronald McDonald House, the Christmas story was spontaneously and symbolically relived for many. Much like the Christmas crèche our brother, St. Francis of Assisi once initiated to celebrate the Babe of Bethlehem, the tenderness of God’s love was shared and in doing so, many of God’s little ones experienced true joy!

## In Memory

### Sr. Angela Cools-Lartigue

*From the eulogy given by Sr. Janet Sullivan*

Angela Cools-Lartigue was born in the Commonwealth of Dominica on November 5, 1929. Born to Alexander and Sybil Cools-Lartigue, she was the second of six children: four girls and two boys. Given her father's political and social position, the family was familiar with a prestigious life style but Angela was not overly impressed with that. She took her cues from her parents' daily attendance at the Eucharist and their love for the poor and she decided early on that she was going to marry a poor man. Angela remained ever grateful for the profound influence that her parents had on her life. She described them in the words of Rudyard Kipling:

*If you can . . . . walk with Kings – nor lose the common touch . . . .*

Apparently they did just that. Angela talked lovingly about her family. Her referral to 'daddy' had a special tone to it; similar was her reference to mother. She enjoyed a very happy family life where there was much laughter, music, song, dance and story-telling. The older children were close in age; in later years they went to work together on their bicycles and socialized and dated together.

Angela graduated from high school at age fifteen, then worked for some years in banking. During one of her vacations, she traveled to England at the time of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. Because of her father's position, she engaged in the festivities of the celebration, attending not only the coronation but a magnificent garden party at which she was chosen for a private conversation with the queen.

Angela was persuaded by a childhood friend to remain in England and study nursing. This she did, though there were those who tried to persuade her otherwise. Her initial training was at the Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth in London; later she specialized in both orthopedic nursing at St. Vincent's Orthopedic



Hospital in Middlesex and midwifery at Kingsbury Maternity Hospital. Angela was an excellent student and nurse – confirmed by the awards that she won: the John Lamb Prize after her initial training and the Gold Medal given to the best all-round nurse who had passed the SRN at the first attempt. The latter prize was voted by the nursing staff on the strength of efficiency and popularity.

Angela's family had moved to Jamaica by the time she returned from England so it was in Jamaica that she settled and worked. After meeting our sisters in Jamaica and receiving a gentle nudge to consider religious life for her future, she entered the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany in 1961. Having sensed that her choice to go to Allegany might meet some resistance in her family, she did not inform the family until after she had arrived in Allegany.

Angela's first assignment after profession was St. Anthony's Hospital where she was placed in charge of the ob-gyn department; while this would never have been her choice, she accepted it when she was told, "You belong in management". Later assignments took her to St. Mary's, St. Francis, and St. Joseph's hospitals in Florida, and St. Francis Residence.

For a year in Mississippi, she worked for the Federal Government in public health nursing with the Choctau Indians. At the same time she remained very involved in Parish Ministry there. Later she spent three years in Parish Ministry in Riviera Beach, Florida and established the Office for Black Catholic Ministry in the Diocese of Palm Beach; for this she was very grateful to the National Black Sisters Conference in helping her to understand the racial problems of this country. She also expressed her gratitude to her congregation for allowing her to plan regional assemblies on racism.

In 1996, Angela was asked to go to Lake

Providence, Louisiana to work with women and children in an impoverished area; this was the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany response to the LCWR's attempt to do something for one of the most depressed and poor places in the United States. Angela joined a sister from another community in this effort. There were numerous programs in place at Lake Providence, but there was little to help the people to learn how to help themselves, and the community was sadly divided; there was no unity of the black and white population. Through an orientation with PICO (Pacific Institute of Community Organization) Angela decided on training that was needed to bring about change in Lake Providence. Through hard work and community organization she succeeded in accomplishing what political leaders were unable to do. After almost five years in Lake Providence, Angela's health required her to leave but she left a very different, united Lake Providence behind her to the astonishment of everyone.

We know that what a person accomplishes gives us some insight into who she is, but she is so much more than that. Angela's favorite Scripture passage is in chapter 5 of Mark's Gospel: the story of the woman who touched Jesus' cloak. Before entrance to Allegany, Angela made a Cursillo; the name of her Cursillo group was Woman who touched His cloak. After the Cursillo, Angela kept bumping into this passage; she saw it everywhere. The significance was clear: she was shy, didn't want to speak up and didn't want a job that demanded a speaking engagement. The woman who touched his cloak encouraged Angela to lay her shyness aside and take more initiative. We see from what has already been said that she met the challenge and what fruit it bore.

Without forfeiting her gentle and compassionate manner, on numerous occasions she changed what looked like the unchangeable. Her legacy is huge. She encourages us in her own words to "Listen to what the Lord says – even in adversity. When you listen to Him, it always works out for the best". Adversity taught her that

## In Memory

God had a plan, different from anything that she envisioned.

In the final analysis, Angela says "After reviewing my life, there is no doubt that from birth the Lord prepared me for being an Allegany Franciscan Sister with my main ministry being to endeavor to bring about harmony among people, especially those of different races". She wanted to bring about unity in order to bring people to Christ.

Sisters who knew her well have offered the following one-liners.

- She was always willing to help.
- She was dedicated and sincere.
- As scheduler of liturgy at St. Elizabeth in Tampa, Angela would await the celebrant and visitors in her usual welcoming way and lead them into the chapel.
- She had a keen sense of responsibility.
- Angela housed a grateful spirit.
- I would trust her with my life.

Angela Cools-Lartigue was a gentle soul, open to the movement of the Spirit, and propelled by a God-given vision. We have been blessed by her presence among us.



**Sr. Jane Kane**

*July 13, 1929  
- April 29,  
2016*

*Sr. Jane Kane requested that there not be a eulogy at her funeral Mass.*

## Sr. Kathleen Murphy

Kate has had several “re-incarnations” if you will over the course of her 98 plus years. She was born Mary Josephine Murphy in 1917 in Winchester, MA, the oldest of 9 children, always claiming to be her father’s favorite! She outlived all of her siblings - as her brother Fr. Jude would say, Kate got all the good genes and the rest of them got crap!



Several years after graduating from high school, Mary entered the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and upon reception was given the name Sister Mary Kathleen. Kathleen, as was the practice at the time, was quickly placed in front of a classroom of first graders and spent over 50 years teaching young children to read and preparing them for their First Eucharist. She was strict but was beloved by many of her former students, some of whom were able to help with her care when she returned here three years ago.

Sister Kathleen taught phonics and presented her students with either a white or black lamb depending on their performance. Fr. Mike Jones was one of her students and got a black lamb for not being able to spell pharmacy, (Mike’s father was a pharmacist, but remember this was first grade!) Mike never quite forgave her for that. Kate’s love of phonics did not serve her well when she was out to lunch with Fr. Steve one day and trying to order the quiche said I’ll have a “quickie” – one of Steve’s favorite stories!

After 20 some years in Allegany, Sr. Kathleen landed in the Bronx, a far cry from rural Allegany. She grew to love the Bronx where the school had a Spanish and African American population. Her students learned their songs (many reflecting her Irish heritage) with a decided Boston accent which she herself never quite lost.

She made many friends in the Bronx, especially with the Friars who were in formation there. Kate seemed to know more Friars than anyone else because of her many years ministering

in parishes staffed by the Friars and of course because her youngest sibling became a Friar himself.

In 1994 Kathleen, at the age of 77, was encouraged to find a new more enriching way to live and minister. She was invited to be a part of our novitiate community, which was at another house in the Bronx at that time. Congregational leadership recognized how good it would be for the novices to live with and learn from her as a valued member of the Allegany Congregation.

But Kathleen listened to the word God planted in her heart and decided instead to come to Long Beach Island where she had spent some summers helping out in the parish. When commenting on her choice she told us that after living there for 20+ years she was afraid of leaving the Bronx (most of us were afraid to go to the Bronx!), but she trusted how she felt God was speaking to her.

Sister Mary Kathleen Murphy came to LBI and became Sr. Kate or Katie to the community she found here and adopted as her own. Her ministry was outreach to the homebound and hospitalized. And she took to this like a fish to water. Kate loved to share the Eucharist she loved with those she visited and would pray with them in ways that always brought comfort. She began singing “The Hand of God” to them when they were dying - (“Not yet, Sr. Kate” was a response from those who thought they still had a lot of life to live. It was her own response for a long time as well!)

Kate loved to sing, and had a repertoire of ditties that would flow from her lips whenever she slowed down enough to think of them.

Kate taught English as a Second Language at the Center and those who were in her classes learned how to speak English again with a bit of a Boston accent.

Katie also worked in the Food Pantry office,

making people feel welcome, being a calming presence for those who did not have what they needed to care for their families.

Kate gave up driving about ten years ago – a very difficult decision that she probably regretted time and again. But Kate’s ministry continued with the assistance of volunteers who became her drivers and were drawn into the ministry of presence to the homebound. When Friar interns were assigned to drive Kate to her visits, they not only drove her, but were mentored by her. They learned how she was present to the sick and how she was able to freely pray with them and give them comfort. An added benefit for these interns came from the time they spent in the car with her, hearing her stories and receiving insights into her spirituality.

When Kate was no longer able to get around as much as she used to, she went to work at the front desk of the Center, answering phones (sometimes not hearing what was said) and bringing her care and vibrancy to the office staff and to all who came seeking information.

Kate was generous to a fault, periodically giving away whatever she did not need at the moment, even if she had to replace it later on!

Kate was committed to growth – always looking to understand what God was asking of her, and how she could best respond. She loved having conversations about spirituality with anyone who would sit with her and discuss the Scriptures, or something she had read or heard.

When I asked people to tell me about Kate, they spoke of her spirit and her spirituality, her joy, her loyalty, her sparkle and her willingness to be a little crazy.

Kate had many friends. Her cell phone became her lifeline, enabling her to contact people she wanted to visit, or receive calls from family and friends from afar. (Her most recent frustration was that she needed help making calls because of her inability to see the numbers on her phone.) If you were Kate’s friend, you were her friend for life.

During hurricane Sandy Kate and I went to live in Lakewood at the Mercy convent at Georgian Court University. She disliked being away from

LBI, disliked the commute back and forth, but came to love and be loved by the sisters there. A bit intimidated by the scholarly conversations that sometimes took place, she teased about going back to get another degree. The day we left one of the sisters gave her a “diploma” granting her a degree in biology. She was so proud of that and was loaned an academic gown so she could have her picture taken with her pseudo-diploma.

Kate decided on her own that it was time to return to Allegany almost three years ago after a particularly serious bout of ill health.

And another chapter of her life began as soon as she was able. She visited the “old” sisters in the infirmary, praying with them and singing to them. The only thing that limited her activities was the amount of oxygen she could carry around with her in her basket of her walker!

Kate was committed to the Allegany Congregation and was a staunch supporter of our Associate Program. She wanted the charism of the Congregation to live on in the laity. Many of the members of the South Jersey Associate group were invited into it by Kate who faithfully attended their gatherings while in the area. A Secular Franciscan before she entered the Alleganies, Kate was always present to the Secular Fraternity at St. Francis and was an inspiration to them all.

When I first arrived on LBI Kate would introduce me with the phrase “and she can cook!” It was not that she needed a cook, but it was because she felt bad that Sr. Pat Mc Niff, with whom she had been living before I arrived, had to do all the cooking! (Kate could only make tea, PB & J, and Irish bread, which she made frequently for families who had lost a loved one.)

Kate was many things to many people, teacher, mentor, community member, advisor, beloved friend. For me, Kate was simply my sister, with all the ups and downs that that relationship entails. I learned that I could not change her, and did not really want to!

She is greatly missed and I am sure continues to pray for all of us as she did so faithfully in life.

# In Memory Sr. Dolores Thorndike

From her eulogy

As I attempted to prepare for this Eulogy, I knew in my heart that many in this chapel knew Dolores far better than I. As I listened to the sharing at the Wake service last evening, that feeling was strengthened even more. And as I read over tributes and thoughts written by friends and family, I realized that all of our lives are a tapestry of “moments and those that share those moments with us come to know us in the context of that time.”



Some of us here knew Dolores as a young professional, others knew her as a Sister sharing life together in community, I knew her most profoundly in her time of transition from an independent Sister living on her own to her eventual transfer to the Motherhouse because of illness, and the pain and suffering that brought to her. These shared moments are moments of Eucharist - of recognizing another in the “breaking of the bread and sharing a time of communion creating memories together.” This is how we remember one another - this is how we live on in each other - in the shared moments of grace, of grief and of joy.

Dolores was born in Weehawken, New Jersey on December 7th 1926. She would have celebrated her 90th birthday this December.

At age nine, she left her family home for that of her Aunt who subsequently raised her in the Buffalo area. She entered the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Divine Child in Williamsville right after high school and remained in that community for over 28 years. She served as their Congregational Minister in the latter years. In 1972 she requested a transfer to our community again listening to the Spirit within and with courage moved to a situation which she hoped would be more life giving.

She was formally received in 1974. As Susan Hines stated in the obituary, “for the 42 years that would follow, Sr. Dolores Eileen was

steadfast to the life and mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.” She used her skills in special education and later pursued a career in nursing. She received a NY license in nursing home administration and put her new skills to use both here in Olean at St. Joseph Manor, and in Florida at St. Francis Residence. She ended her career at St. Anthony’s in St. Petersburg, creating a Parish Nurse program that eventually grew to be the largest in the United States. She is fondly remembered by those who

worked with her in these organizations.

Her dedication to whatever she was doing at any one time was absolute. She engaged with people as her many cards and phone calls attest and with the events of the day having a firm opinion on each one of them.

Organized and bright, she was hard working and dedicated. In her volunteer work at St. Anthony’s she would arrive at the hospital as early at 3:30 in the morning to prepare materials for the day’s surgeries. She drove across the bridge every weekend to volunteer at the desk at the Franciscan Center. Service to God’s people gave her joy and life.

Those who lived with her called her energetic, light-hearted and joyful. She loved to cook and was a joy to live with. Her nieces remember her as someone who loved them dearly and whom they loved. She left them with many happy memories and funny stories.

Leaving her volunteer work and friends on the Pinellas side of the Bay, she moved to Sr. Elizabeth’s Convent in Tampa, and eventually, because of ill health moved to the Motherhouse. She raged at each of these changes - prayed - and then accepted the change with grace. An independent thinker and independent person, she suffered at each one of these junctures in her life. She enjoyed the Sisters and nurses at the Motherhouse. Not being well most of the time

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# Sr. Rose Shaw

From the eulogy given by Sr. Marigene Kennedy

# In Memory

The first thing that came to my mind when I was asked to reflect on the life of Sr. Rose Therese Shaw, was that she was one of those people who loved life, her family and in a special way her role as a teacher. But, more on that a bit later.

Born Gloria Irene Shaw, on July 13, 1927 in Portland Maine, she was the daughter of John E. and Rose Maguire Shaw. Home must have been a lively place with her parents and three siblings - John, Betty and Jean, all five of whom have now predeceased Sister. St. Patrick’s Elementary School and Cathedral High School in Portland provided a great start to a lifelong love of learning – and of ‘discerning’. Even as a young woman she sensed a call to religious life and after graduating from Cathedral High in 1945, chose to enter our congregation, The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, receiving the name Sr. Rose Therese (Shaw). In 1959, Sister graduated from St. Elizabeth Teacher College (St. Bonaventure University) with a B.S. in Education .. like so many of us sitting here once did!

Sr. Rose Therese went on to pursue graduate work at both Catholic Theological Union in Washington, D.C. and the University of St. Michael’s College in Toronto, Canada. A wonderful gift to Rose Therese was an opportunity to attend The American University in Beirut, Lebanon, where she earned a Certification in History. Indeed, in all the world, history was her favorite subject to study and to engage in teaching others.

In pursuit of this learning, Rose Therese loved to travel and had numerous opportunities to do so during her ‘teaching years’. Her students were the beneficiaries of the wonderful stories and experiences she enthusiastically shared with them (and with those of us who lived with her!). From 1947 to 1980 Sister used her skills teaching both Elementary and High School students in ‘our’ schools in New York and New Jersey. Eight



of those years were spent right down the street at Archbishop Walsh High School in Olean.

In asking any of our sisters what stood out for them about Sr. Rose Therese, it was always her love of History and her dynamic skills as a teacher. We who lived on Mission with her recall the positive influence this woman had on her students, giving them the gift of respect for the past while encouraging them to engage in their role as ‘makers of tomorrow’. Her students revered

her, but they also ‘liked her’. Lest you think her classroom lacked levity, hear this. Rose Therese was teaching, going from the board to notes, maps, etc. and one Sophomore boy (the clip of the class) leaves his seat near the back of the class and crawling on his knees, proceeds to head for the back door, quietly opening it and crawling out into the hall, at which point he is met by the Principal. Still on his knees, the boy makes an about turn and re-enters the classroom, retracing his ‘crawl’ back to his seat. By now, the class room is full of submerged giggles as Sister picks up what had just happened. Both Sister and the Principal joined in the now loud laughter. Rose Therese loved it!

Sister was really a ‘class act’! With a wonderful sense of humor, she would put a happy spin on the ‘interesting things’ that happened, be it in the convent where she resided or in the school or outside settings. She loved the Broadway Theater and when she was at St. John the Baptist High School, West Islip, Long Island, she and some friends would trek into the city (NY) to ‘catch’ a show. TV wasn’t a particular favorite of hers and she preferred to delve into a good book. And she loved animals. We have lots of pictures showing the smiles that came to her as she cuddled one or another pet when our wonderful Activities Department arranged Pet Therapy Days for our sisters here at the Motherhouse.

“Officially’ retiring in 1997, Sr. Rose Therese remained at St. Joseph’s, Niagara Falls until

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# *In Memory*

## *Sr. Veronica Mary Louis*

*From the eulogy given by Sr. Jean Hayes*



“The souls of the righteous are in your hands, O God.”  
With deep Faith, we believe that the Lord in calling Sr. Veronica Mary Louis and Sr. Frances Cardillo back home, He fulfilled His promise in granting them Eternal Life.

## *Sr. Frances Cardillo*

Franciscans and enriched the lives of all those who were privileged to meet them on the journey.



Their love, compassion, joy and understanding can only be measured by the Lord. Each of us here present in the chapel has witnessed their faithfulness and dedication to the Lord.

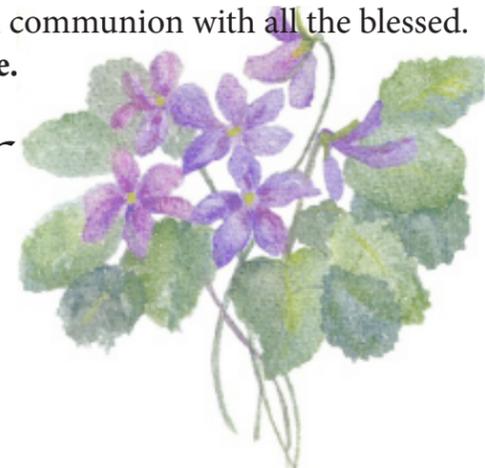
What greater tribute can be given to an individual than to say that they truly loved and served the people of God?

God gave Veronica Mary and Fran loving personalities and kind dispositions. They saw the best in everyone and used this ability to reach out to those who were hurting.

Together we join in our prayer thanking God for His kindness in allowing us to share in the lives of Sr. Veronica Mary and Sr. Fran Cardillo.

We celebrate their entrance in joining with the rest of their family in Heaven.

May God’s Light shine upon you, may rest in the arms of God: May you dwell for evermore in communion with all the blessed.  
**Rest in Peace.**



They have achieved the goal that we are still seeking.

It is with deep gratitude and love that we hand them back to the Lord.

Veronica Mary and Fran heard the call of the Lord and both responded to that call and became Allegany Franciscans. In responding to the needs of the community, they both recognized our rich heritage and tradition.

Although their assignments took them on different paths, they shared the same common threads that bound them together in spreading the gospel. Their deep spiritual roots were the mainstay that provided the impetus to proclaim the gospel in their unique ways. Veronica Mary became a missionary to Brazil and Bolivia and Fran became a high school teacher and then a college professor. They both lived the mission of the Allegany

*May God bless you and keep you, Sisters.*

## *Dear God,*

You make skies, you made mountains

And trees without leaves

You made people who walk down below

You made grass ways, and pathways

Beside river banks

You made rivers with waters that flow

You made all the creatures I meet on the way

Bugs, beetles, butterflies, and birds

Yes, all of your creatures give praise to their God

And give thanks that you’ve spoken your words

The words you have spoken have Given me life

I thank you and sing you my priase

Oh let not your call to me fall on deaf ears



*I’ll praise you, My God, all my days*

Sr. Kathleen Frances Honc

**Sr. Dolores Thorndike, continued....**

that she was here, she was grateful for the care and many kindnesses she received.

I will end with the words of Nick Mormando. Nick was a brother in the Capuchin community when he first met Dolores. He is presently the Provincial of the Capuchins whom Dolores knew because of her relationship with her beloved Fr. Jude Duffy.

Dolores was a loving woman and friend. Those who were “taken into her heart” were blessed indeed. We thank you Dolores for the great gifts you shared with us, your Sisters and with all those you served in your ministry. May your God, whom you loved and served with joy, surround you with grace and peace and welcome you home.

**Sr. Rose Therese Shaw, continued....**

2001 when she came to the Motherhouse. While still able, she was a willing volunteer in service to her sisters. In recent years, her pace had slowed and she was troubled with multiple health issues, preventing her from involvement in the active life she had so cherished. Though lovingly cared for in the St. Clare Community, it became difficult for her to ‘catch the joy’ so present in her earlier years. A woman of Faith throughout her life, this Faith was passed on to others - family, friends and students alike - as she lived the life of a dedicated religious, using her God-given gifts in her special way to praise her God.

Dear Sister Rose Therese Shaw, OSF, your ‘History’ has been a gift to us and we thank God for your life as a Sister to all of us! May you rest in God’s peace.

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