



Mendham, NJ
November 2, 2007

Dear Sisters and Companions of Pauline,

On October 24, 2007, God called our Companion of Pauline, Nancy Leonard, home to Himself. Can you just imagine the welcome given her by our own Mother Pauline, as one of her faithful daughters?

Nancy was born on April 16, 1955 in Nutley, New Jersey as one of 6 children of the McTernan family. She and her husband Ray had two children; Michael who is a junior at NYU and Katie who is a senior at Immaculata High School in Somerville.

Nancy was diagnosed with cancer approximately two years ago. Although she underwent extensive treatment, she always remained upbeat and positive. She never wanted anyone to be sad because of her. A few weeks before her death, she was hospitalized to alleviate her sufferings. Surrounded by her family, she died peacefully and entered into the home the Lord had prepared for her.

Nancy became acquainted with the Sisters of Christian Charity when Michael and Katie attended the School of St. Elizabeth in Bernardsville. It was during that time (2000) that Sister Theresa Ann and Sister Joelle invited her to join the Companions of Pauline

When asked why she wanted to be a Companion she stated that she was in awe of the warmth she felt at the Motherhouse and knew that in this environment she would be able to enrich her spiritual life. Nancy was a very active member of the Companions. Until her illness weakened her, Nancy attended all meetings, participated in the activities and offered her services whenever needed. If there was a need, Nancy was there to help. In the spirit of Blessed Pauline, she showed that delicate consideration of others. Nancy had many talents; one of them was her knowledge of computers. She was always willing to share her knowledge and expertise with the Sisters. She was always our unofficial photographer on Covenant Day.



Nancy was a familiar face in the Motherhouse. The Sisters embraced this sweet, gracious lady who had a smile for all. One of the Sisters noted that when she would hear the clicking of high heels in the corridor and knew it was Nancy. When Nancy met her Nancy would say "Hi, Sister. You heard my heels."

Nancy's love and service to the Sisters spread beyond the Motherhouse. It was her delight to visit the retired Sisters in our home in Danville, PA. Nancy ordered the poinsettias for the retired Sisters at Christmas time and traveled each year with the group to deliver the plants personally.

Sister Mary Joseph, President of Assumption College for Sisters, told us that in 2004, Nancy volunteered to become treasurer at Assumption College for Sisters. From that time until about six months ago, not only did she take care of the bookkeeping at the college, but she also computerized the banking system, created a DVD about the College, the Quellen Center and Motherhouse community, and served on the Steering Committee for the Middle States Evaluation in 2005 as well as on the Enrollment Development Committee and so much more. Whenever anyone needed help with computers, power point presentation, raffle tickets or anything else, Nancy offered her time. She loved the international students. Even though she wasn't feeling well at the time she graciously invited them to her home at Christmastime to see her tree and decorations.

It was no wonder, then, when arrangements were made for her Mass of Resurrection and Christian Burial to be celebrated on October 29, the tiny Church of Our Mother of Perpetual Help would not be able to accommodate all who would attend. Rev. John Fell, pastor, had requested that Nancy's funeral be held in our Motherhouse chapel. The Mass was concelebrated by Rev. John Fell and Msgr. Patrick Brown, assisted by Deacon Joseph O'Keefe and Deacon Joel Livingston. The choir and instrumental group from Immaculata of which her daughter Katie was a member, provided the music for the congregation which numbered over 400. Sister Martha Kavanagh, coordinator of the Bernardsville group of Companions, and Companions Alana Davis, Donna Cofalko, and Linda Keady were in the Offertory Procession. At the conclusion of the liturgy, S. Martha, Nancy's sister Donna and her employer paid tribute to the faith and joy that Nancy shared with all. (For the complete text of Sister Martha's remarks, please check the website at <http://www.scceast.org/companion/news.htm>)

All of the Sisters and Companions join me in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Ray, Michael and Katie. Let us keep Nancy, her family, and each other in prayer as in imitation of Blessed Pauline, we strive to live and make visible the love of Christ in the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sister Joseph Spring, SCC." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sister Joseph Spring, SCC