

Remarks Delivered by S.Martha Kavanagh at Nancy Leonard's Funeral

Good Morning, Everyone.

Ray asked if one of the sisters would reflect on Nancy's relationship with the Sisters of Christian Charity. My name is Sister Martha, one of the many friends of Nancy and the Bernardsville coordinator of the Companions of Pauline, which is a group of lay associates in the community of the SCC's.

How blessed and privileged we are here at our Motherhouse to be able to welcome you to the Chapel of Mary Immaculate to pray for Nancy and to celebrate her life. Nancy felt very much at home here.

To the Sisters of the Motherhouse and to all the Sisters who were graced to know Nancy throughout the years Nancy was and remains a very dear friend.

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 when she was here and knew in this environment she would be able to enrich her spiritual life. Nancy was a very active member of the Companions. Until the time she became weak from illness Nancy attended all meetings, participated in the activities and offered her services whenever needed. If there was a need, there was Nancy to help. In the spirit of our foundress, Blessed Pauline, Nancy showed that delicate consideration of others. Nancy had many talents one of them being her knowledge of computers and she was always willing to share that knowledge with the Sisters. As one Sister said, she was a pro with the camera, and was always eager to come to events to take pictures.

As one of the Companions of Pauline belonging to the Bernardsville group we were so happy to have her with us. We often prayed together, served together but also laughed together. Nancy loved to have fun and often initiated excuses to party.

As time went on Nancy became 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 she would hear the clicking of heels coming down 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. It was Nancy who ordered the poinsettias for the retired Sisters at Christmas time and traveled each year with the group to deliver them personally.

Sister Mary Joseph, President of Assumption College for Sisters, tells us that in 2004, Nancy volunteered to become treasurer at Assumption College for Sisters. From that time on until about 6 months ago she not only took care of the bookkeeping at the college, but she computerized the banking system, created a DVD about the College, the Quellen Center and Motherhouse community, served on the Steering Committee for the Middle States Evaluation in 2005, served 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 and graciously invited them to her house at Christmas time to see her tree and decorations even though she wasn't feeling well at the time.

The list of what Nancy did for us as Sisters of Christian Charity and also for all those who knew her would be endless. Our hearts are full and filled with deep gratitude.

The memory of who she was and continues to be in the Lord will always be treasured. To all of us she remains an example of a gracious person, a kind person, a thoughtful and helpful person. She was not only an example of goodness, but a source of inspiration. She inspired us with her strong love and dedication to her family, Ray, Michael, and Katie; she inspired us by her steadfast faith and spirit of prayer. During her illness she inspired us by her outstanding strength and courage. All through her time of suffering, Nancy continued to be that same gracious woman thinking of others rather than her own pain and weakness.

Thank you Ray, Michael, and Katie for sharing the gift of your Mother with all of us.

Dear Nancy, dear friend, we thank you. We hold you in loving memory. Pray for us, Nancy, as we continue our journey. In faith we know we will meet again and then the celebration will go on.