

Remembering Sr. Marie Franck, DW



Good morning – what a lovely summer day! I think Sr. Marie would agree. For those of you who were with us yesterday, we heard how much Sr. Marie appreciated everyone and everything around her. She saw the good in people, in all living creatures, in creation and the arts – especially music.

Sr. Marie, as we all know, celebrated her 100th birthday in April and was professed 81 years. She had a rich and varied life of ministry as a Daughter of Wisdom. She taught in Ozone Park, NY, Norfolk, VA and Waterbury, CT. She served as Principal at St. Mary's Academy in Norfolk. And, then in 1956, was transferred to Maryview Hospital in Portsmouth, VA where she served as Superior and Administrator for nine years. For those of you who were students at Maryview Hospital's School of Nursing, Marie was a kind and understanding leader. It was so evident how much she loved "the nurses." I remember one day last year talking with Marie at Maria Regina Residence. She knew I was a nurse and somehow or other included me with her beloved Maryview nurses. I must confess I did not remind her that I was not a Maryview graduate and instead vicariously enjoyed being part of this special group.

Sr. Marie was born in Maine and did return to Maine (St. Agatha) in 1963 to serve as Superior of



Notre Dame de la Sagesse. In 1966, Sr. Marie attended Catholic University of America in Washington, DC where she received her degree in music. Marie enjoyed teaching children to play the piano. I remember when Sr. Marie and Sr. Yvette were living in Shelton, CT. Marie was teaching Yvette to play the piano. They planned a recital at their apartment along with a Christmas party. Sr. Marie lived and ministered in Shelton, CT for nine years as a volunteer at St. Joseph's parish where she visited the homebound and volunteered in a nursing home.

Prior to that, Sr. Marie served as the Administrator of Sterling Home (an adult home for women) in Bridgeport, CT. After the home closed, the building was used as a community center. I remember going to the place when I worked for AmeriCares. I did not realize it was the former Sterling Home, until I saw a picture of Sr. Marie in the lobby. What a joy it was to tell the people I was with – I know her. She is a Daughter of Wisdom.

Once Marie moved to Bristol, CT she volunteered as a pastoral visitor at Bristol Hospital. In 2002 she moved to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Convent – Sound Beach. Marie was the

Coordinator of the Community at OLPH, took care of music for the liturgies and prayer services and regularly led the Sisters in exercise!



Marie did not consider herself “retired” until she moved to Maria Regina Residence, but her care of others continued ... she was a lovely, loving and positive presence to the residents, staff and her visitors.

Marie, you lived a full and rich life, and each of us are better for having known you. You will be missed for over all these years we have grown accustomed to your loving presence in our lives. Marie was always clear to remind us that she prayed for us every day. May you continue to inspire us by the way you lived your life, your deep life of prayer and how deeply you loved – thank you, Sr. Marie – woman of Wisdom!

“Well done, good and faithful servant ...
Enter into the joy of the Lord.”

Sr. Cathy Sheehan, D.W.
6/29/2018

