

Sr. Margaret McCabe, D.W. and Sr. Grace Malonzo, D.W. Recognized for 60 years of Ministry at Jubilee Celebration in Virginia Beach

January 31, 2015

Back in late January, when Sr. Margaret McCabe, D.W. mentioned to colleagues in Sowers of Justice that she and Sr. Grace Malonzo, D.W. were soon to celebrate a milestone of 60 years as Daughters of Wisdom, in a matter of days, Tim and Renee McCarthy organized a celebration that spread across four rooms of their home. Those rooms were filled with forty five friends coming from groups where the Sisters are active in their ministries, including Sowers of Justice, The Environmental and Women's Groups, the Catholic Worker, The Just Faith Turtle Group, Virginia Organizing and House Church. Members of the groups descended upon the elegant McCarthy home with delicious food, abundant wine, flowers, candlelight, and their very own flute and piano player to accompany a time of prayer and story-telling about Sr. Margaret's and Sr. Grace's service of over forty five years in the Portsmouth and Virginia Beach area. Not to miss the occasion, one of the Sowers, who recently moved back to NY, joined the celebration for prayer and witness by phone.



A Community of diverse religious affiliations and backgrounds, the men and women gathered shared their love for the Daughters of Wisdom and their mutual passion for social justice and service of the most needy. After song and prayer together in the Great Room, many witnessed in story to what Sr. Grace and Sr. Margaret have been to them personally, for the wider community and world.

Sr. Grace, a well know figure working with the poor on the streets of Portsmouth, has been dubbed by many, the Mother Theresa of Portsmouth. She was praised for her work and advocacy on environmental issues of fracking, reduced fossil fuel consumption, the Keystone Pipeline, drawing others to see these issues in light of the sacredness of all of creation; one of the Catholic Workers commented that they rely on her to cook the eggs on Saturday mornings at the Catholic Worker.

Sr. Margaret's work in immigration was attested by one of the women with whom she spent a full day and evening at the legislative assembly till they were finally listened to – "She's my angel." Sr. Margaret was praised for her passionate work for justice for women, her fearless speaking the truth to power. Many spoke of their love of Sr. Margaret's home as a place where they were welcomed and where they learned so much from her in terms of prayer, creating meaningful ritual and the seeking of Wisdom.



And in all the accolades, there was a keen sense that while these two women were being feted, all gathered there were in the mission together. Their presence to each other was such a palpable witness of how they bring a holy presence to those with whom and to whom they minister. Sr. Margaret and Sr. Grace thanked everyone for sharing life and ministry with them and Sr. Grace prayed a blessing over all who attended the celebration.



Photos: Top right, Sr. Margaret McCabe, D.W.; Top Left, Sr. Grace Malonzo, D.W., Pictured with Sr. Margaret McCabe are the party hosts, and Sowers of Justice colleagues, Tim and Renee McCarthy.

This article in its original form was graciously written by Sr. Marie Chiodo, D.W., who attended the celebration and commented that she "felt graced to be a part of this community and their honoring of our sisters."