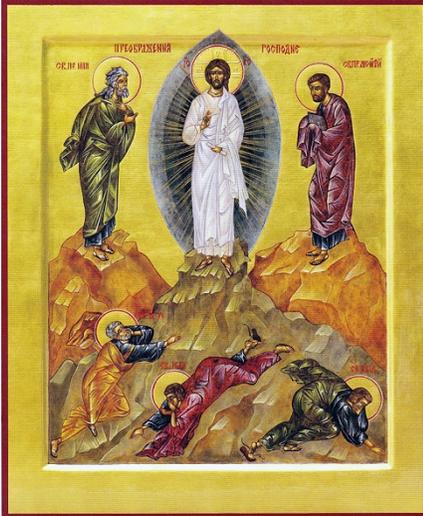


SR. MARY JANE CASHIN, DW
Sr. Mary Dolores of the Rosary
60TH Jubilee Celebration

THE CALL AND THE COST



Mary Jane’s first awareness of her call to Religious Life came to her while she was still in grammar school. One Monday night in the parish church, while she was at the Miraculous Medal Novena, the image that came to Mary Jane was that of a chalice meant to be set aside and **not** be used for anything else – ‘only God’. Later, Montfort’s own motto, ‘God Alone’ was to become a dynamic strong focus in her life.

But when Mary Jane, then a senior at Our Lady of Wisdom Academy, asked her parents’ permission to enter the convent, they hesitated. They felt that she should have more life-experience before implementing that decision. So, Mary Jane accepted her scholarship to Maryview Hospital School of Nursing where she studied for a full year before entering the novitiate at Litchfield. On the day of her profession she received the name Sr. Mary Dolores of the Rosary. The next day, to her great joy, she received her assignment to Maryview School of Nursing where she

completed her studies and was certified as a registered nurse in 1961.

FROM NURSE TO MISSIONARY TO TEACHER

Many of our sisters have been excellent teachers or excellent nurses, but very few have been both at the same time. Mary Jane was one of these gifted few.

In 1962 she received her assignment to our newly established Good Samaritan Hospital in Islip, NY. She was there, shocked out of a sound sleep, on that terrifying night when a hurricane ripped the roof off the hospital.

In 1965 she was temporarily missioned to Malawi to help tide things over during a hepatitis outbreak among our missionary nurses there. In 1966, when she returned to the States after this emergency assignment, she was assigned to Plattsburg NY to earn her Bachelor’s degree in nursing.

From 1973 onward, teaching and nursing were often intertwined in Mary Jane’s life. From 1973 to 1978 she worked as a clinical nursing instructor at St. Mary’s Hospital School of Nursing in Queens, NY. At the same time, she was earning her MA in Nursing Education from New York University.

DIALYSIS – A SPECIAL VOCATION

For twenty years, from 1978 to 1998, Mary Jane’s professional life centered around dialysis. It was at Good Samaritan Hospital in Islip NY that she began as Assistant Head Nurse in the Acute Dialysis Unit and ended up as Dialysis Nurse Educator in the Chronic Dialysis Unit.

In 1983, Mary Jane became the Transplant Coordinator for the NY Regional Transplant Center at Stony Brook. Ten years later she went to North Shore University Hospital as a Nephrology Nurse Clinician. She remained there until 1998, when she retired from active nursing in a hospital setting.

Mary Jane retains a special memory of a 94-year-old woman on kidney dialysis. Terrified of dialysis, this patient had an important question for her nurse, Mary Jane. “Will you watch over me and take care of me?”

Unhesitatingly, Mary Jane replied, “Yes, I promise. I will watch over you and care for you!” How often, after that, Mary Jane was to live those words with painful intensity. She saw so many patients awaiting transplants when their time was running out and no matching transplants were available. So many times, despairing patients felt that they were unable to endure any more dialysis. So many families needed support.

But Mary Jane soldiered on, watching over them and caring for them, because she never lost faith in her God, supporting and surrounding them all in this messy world.

PERSONAL TUTORING

For the last eight years of her ministry which lasted until 2016, teaching took over Mary Jane’s life. She became a professional tutor for the ACE program at Molloy College School of Nursing in Rockville Center. She had never imagined the variety of people she would help in this ministry. Her students included young women and men who sincerely wanted to become nurses, but who ‘froze’ when it came to expressing what they knew on exam papers. She also had older people who were currently working full-time on the night shift as nurses’ aides or as LPN’s. Among her most unusual students were a retired fireman and a Russian doctor with ten years of experience who needed to learn the role of registered nurses in the United States in order to pass the Board Examinations that would qualify her to practice medicine in this country. For her excellence in tutoring, Mary Jane was given an award of excellence by Molloy College.

It was at this time of her life that Mary Jane also entered happily into the post-Vatican II ‘wave’ of inter-community living. For twenty-one years she and Mary Morrow lived with the Amityville Dominicans at New Hyde Park. She was happy with these sisters and still speaks in glowing terms of their open and unfailing hospitality and the help they gave to Mary Jane’s ailing parents.

AN UNEXPECTED GIFT

Mary Jane says that the real highlight of her life was the wonderful experience of being present at the Beatification of our foundress, Mother Marie Louise Trichet in Rome. She had requested and received time off from Stony Brook Hospital. During her last days there, to her great surprise, she received strong and vibrant affirmation from patients and staff for her caring and efficient service in the dialysis unit. They freely entered into her excitement and delight at the prospect of meeting with other Daughters of Wisdom from all over the world. Once in Rome, she felt and shared a profound deepening of her already strong love of Marie Louise. She came home burning with the desire to be faithful and to live fully our Wisdom charism – ‘God Alone.’

HOMECOMING

When Mary Jane was recently asked about her plans for the future, her reply was strong and spontaneous. She said, “I’m lucky to be right here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Convent. I’ve done the best I could along Wisdom’s Way, and now I’m very content to be a part of a caring and interesting community. Here, I am cared for by such a loving and competent staff. I’m also grateful and happy that I always have the affectionate support of my loving family and friends.

Thank you, Mary Jane!

