



## Sister Eileen Dolan

Entered eternal life on November 5, 2016

Here's the quote from *A Daily thought from Sister Miriam Teresa* for the day that Sister Eileen Dolan died:

*“Where is Our Lord’s treasure? Where is His Heart?”*

*It is inside of you; it is your soul—the real ‘you.’”*

I like to think of this quote as a message to us from Blessed Miriam Teresa, welcoming Sister Eileen home. Indeed, inside Sister Eileen Dolan--and inside all of us who knew her--we find “the Lord’s treasure,” His “heart.”

I'm Mary Agnes Mullowney. I'm proud to be one of the 58 people who have called this “treasure” AUNT...one of 24 nieces and nephews, 24 grand nieces and nephews, and 10 great-grand nieces and nephews.

This “treasure” and “heart” of a woman reached out to so many more than just her family: Her students in Vailsburg, Teaneck, Mother Seton High School, Bayley-Ellard, College of St. Elizabeth where she chaired the Music Department, the Archdiocese of Newark where she directed its music program, her community at the motherhouse, and, most recently, her community here at the Villa. This was her home. The Sisters of Charity are her family. In recent years our aunt would say "Thank you, Sister" to *everyone*--nurses, aides, laypeople, and nuns—an indication of how much she felt she was always surrounded by the love and kindness of her fellow sisters.

Ninety-one years old! What changes she saw! When she joined the order in 1943, Eileen Dolan left behind her saddle shoes and bobby socks to become Sister Charles Mary and to wear the wimpled habit from Sister Miriam Teresa's day. During her 73 years as a Sister of Charity, she saw the habit modified and re-modified until she wore suits. Her name became Sister Eileen and eventually we simply called her Leen. She learned to drive (fast) and somehow, in one notable incident, accidentally drove her car onto the stage of Wolf Trap Farm in Virginia during a performance by Beverly Sills.

Oh, did she have “heart!” When she directed the choir at Mother Seton, she let everyone join the choir, even if they couldn't sing. She was always giving us wrapped little “nunny gifts” for Christmas and birthdays. Once when she was given money to feed us, Sister Eileen took us to the store and got ingredients to make us chocolate malts. Yes, Sister Eileen loved the Lord, but she also loved chocolate and coffee.

Oh, did she have a voice! She used it for accents and characters as a consummate story teller. We would ask her for her stories by name... “*Una Gamba*,” “*Bunratty Castle Hotel*.” She had a stunning gift of song and I can still hear her clear soprano. She was proud of her role as Yum Yum in the *Mikado*. She cut a record, *Sisters in Song*, and sang at the Vatican in a choir from the congregations of Sisters of Charity when Elizabeth Seton was canonized. She worked with a Bishop from Uganda, spending months writing down in musical notation the native songs of Uganda that were used in the Catholic Mass there. This woman, whose Irish immigrant father had to leave school in fourth grade, got her doctoral degree in music from Catholic University.

She had a magical quality about her. Many years ago she was at the shore at Harvey Cedars with Sister Francis Maria Cassidy and they had no money to buy lunch. Sister Eileen prayed and a five-dollar bill (enough to buy two lunches in those days) rolled in on a wave. When she lived here at the Villa, there was a major hurricane one year. All the phones were out for two days. But Sister Eileen and I were saying the Rosary Novena

together every day by phone .... so, mysteriously, somehow one phone in the entire Villa was able to work—hers.

Sister Eileen's work on the beatification cause of Sister Miriam Teresa made us especially appreciate what a treasure she was. She wrote the VIRTUES section of the *positio*. She needed to learn Italian, so she did. (She was in MENSA.) The Prefect of Cardinals, Cardinal Amato, came here to the Villa to see her.

The moment in her entire life when I saw Sister Eileen the happiest was during the medical testimony for the beatification cause for Sister Miriam Teresa. I was transcribing the testimony and Sister Eileen had prepared the VIRTUES. When Sister Eileen heard the man who was cured of blindness as a young boy describe the moment of the miracle, her face became enraptured. That face of joy, of sheer delight, is the face she will have in Heaven.

And she was so proud to be Irish! In Irish, "Eileen" means "Light." In Greek, it means "Shining Light."

Where is Eileen, our "Shining Light"? Where is our "treasure?"

She's home.

Mary Agnes Mallowney  
Niece of Sister Eileen Dolan