



Sister Mary Alberta Keuhlen
Entered eternal life on February 2, 2018

Jo, Aunt Jo, Sister Alberta, Alberta. We are all heartbroken and mourn our loss. Even though we know that you are in a better place we are saddened. We must be comforted by knowing that you are free from physical pain for the first time in many years.

I met Alberta 22 years ago when I worked at Mahoney Library. We became friends and she is the reason that I am a Seton Associate of the Sisters of Charity. She loved being a Sister of Charity and was very supportive of the Associates. Alberta was sponsor to four Associates. She was my mentor and the sister I never had (my sister died at seven when I was five). Thank you Mary for sharing your sister with me these past 20 years.

Early in our friendship I learned that Alberta not only worked full-time in the library, but she also went to the Villa and was beautician to Sister Hildegarde and some other sisters. She taught CCD with Sr. Anne McKeon and proctored SAT exams. She also helped a woman with medical issues, with paperwork and bookkeeping and took her to Paper Mill Playhouse when she could no longer drive. In between she was an avid reader, loved crossword and logic puzzles, Sudoku and crocheting.

Alberta loved her nieces, nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews. She would crochet baby afghans and animals for the little ones and full-size afghans when they were older. She attended all family events and loved every minute of it. One of her favorites was Cousins Week with Mary and the grands every summer at the farm in PA. She always looked forward to it.

As if she did not have enough events in her own family she was happy to participate in family events with my husband Eddie and me. It was always clear that she would not be able to attend if there was a conflict with Mary and family. Alberta shared in my great niece's first birthday party and in 2017 her 16th birthday, when she was in Lavallette with us last August. She loved the shore and was very content to sit on the front porch and watch the ocean. It was a joy to see her enjoy. At the shore she met some of my extended family and was able to visit with two former students from St. Al's in Jersey City.

I was able to share Alberta with my brother and family and also with my friends. They are blessed to have had her in their lives, as we all were. Alberta came to our annual corned beef & cabbage dinner, BBQs, and shared in Eddie's and my 25th wedding anniversary. She also stood by us at the funerals of my mother-in-law, brother, and sister-in-law.

Alberta enjoyed being with the Seton Associates. She went with us to retreats at Maris Stella. A highlight on the way home was to stop at the handicapped ramp on the ocean to sit and enjoy watching the waves. Alberta was a member of our Seton Associate Daytime Group at Convent. She also served on the Communication Committee with Doris Kempton and me. This group laid the foundation for keeping in touch with the Associates. This was all before we had our Directory. Alberta was also on the Seton Associate Board for two terms.

We enjoyed going to shows at the Paper Mill Playhouse and going out to eat afterwards. We also liked to sit and chat, whether it be casual conversation, a problem or a faith discussion. Alberta has deepened my faith and was not afraid to tackle any question. She shared with me her love of God and emphasized God's love for each and every one of us. She listened, she thought about it and then she gave advice. If all was resolved she gave credit to the Holy Spirit working through her.

We are all grateful for two happy events in Alberta's life last year. She had a wonderful 90th birthday party given by Mary and attended by many of her family members. It was a wonderful occasion. Alberta was also able to celebrate her 70th jubilee in the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. It was a blessed event. We should all remember these happy times in her life.

I would be remiss if I did not single out Sister Regina Rose. For some time now the two have been very good friends. Sr. Regina, we will miss Alberta together.

Alberta has gone home to God and is now with her Mom, Dad and brothers Albert and Bernie. She is also with her Uncle Phil who she spoke about so often. I'm sure she is also happy to be reunited with Dee (Sr. Robert) a friend who died before I met Alberta and with whom she did some carpentry work at Maris Stella years ago.

I will miss our times together Alberta. Know that I will never forget you dear friend, nor will Eddie. May you rest in peace.

Anne Marie Civinskas
Seton Associate