



Sister Mary Cullen

Entered eternal life on August 6, 2016

Mary Cullen – Sister Miriam Aquinas – Sister Mary Cullen, Aunt Ree Ree – by whatever name you knew her, she is the wonderful woman we celebrate tonight.

There were so many praiseworthy qualities Mary had it would be impossible to cover them all, so I decided to follow the dictum of St. Therese - the Little Flower who said, “It is love alone that counts.”

Mary’s life was infused with love – Love of God – Love of Family – and Love of her vocation as a Sister of Charity.

Her Love of God was evidenced at a very young age, when at 18, she gave her life to Him in answering the call to a religious vocation. This love developed during the years as she grew closer to Our Lord through private and community prayer, retreats, parish spirituality events, centering prayer and ever faithful Mass attendance.

Love of family enriched her life and that of all her dear ones. From the day we came to the novitiate Mary’s love for her parents and siblings was very evident. We enjoyed hearing her stories about Eddie, Alice, Nancy and Paul. As the years moved on and the family grew we knew how proud Mary was of nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. She was so close to all of them.

Love of her vocation and her ministry as a Sister of Charity was shown from her earliest days in community. Although it is almost 67 years ago, I clearly remember the day when Mary and I as postulants were sent to scrub and wax the floor of a large room in the novitiate. Down on our knees, scrub brushes in hand, we were working away and Mary was telling me how wonderful it was to be there – what a joy to be with the Sisters of Charity. At that particular assignment I was less enthusiastic!

Mary served happily and well in a variety of ministries throughout the years – as elementary school teacher, parish director of Religious Education, assistant in the development office, and finally as the “Car Czar” for the congregation – keeping track of the automobiles used by the Sisters with the many details involved. Every ministry was done with real professionalism and love for all she met along the way.

I close now with the words of St. Paul:

“There are in the end three things that last – faith, hope and love – and the greatest of these is love. Thank you, Mary, for all the love you gave us.

Sister Clare Mary Roden