

Sister Therese Christine Amero

Entered eternal life on August 14, 2016



Sister Therese Christine was born in New York City, March 23, 1937...the first born child of Louise and Alfred Amero...who named their daughter Elizabeth Louise...soon to be affectionately called “Betty Lou”.

At age two Betty Lou was joined by her sister Christine who immediately became Betty Lou’s best friend and companion, even to this day.

I’ve been told that Betty Lou, our Sister Therese Christine, was a rather precocious child, ever the leader (or some say the dictator or instigator) among her peers.

And, on the other hand, I’ve been told that her gentle sensitivity, compassion and generosity deeply touched her playmates and the hearts of all with whom she continued to journey the path of life.

At a young age Therese chose to give consideration to a call to religious life. She spent her high school years at Saint Vincent Juniorate, here at Convent Station with other teenagers reflecting on the same call. Along with a focus on the fundamentals of community living, prayer, academics, the arts, sports, and quiet reflection, plain-old-fun was the order of each busy day in the Juniorate. Her classmates tell that one of Therese’s favorite fun things was dancing, and she frequently called on Barbara Brown (yes, our very own Sister Barbara Brown, right there) to play the piano for her so that she could dance. And dance she did!

Therese entered religious life, March 6, 1955, sixty-one years ago.

She had a strong desire to be engaged in the ministry of healthcare. Her mother was a nurse and taught Therese and her sister Chrissie, by example, the sacredness of caring for those in need of healing.

Upon completion of the novitiate, Therese began studies at Saint Vincent Hospital School of Nursing, Montclair and became a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1957.

Her ministry in healthcare began here at Saint Anne Villa. The years she cared for our Sisters and lived in community with the Sister staff were more than special to her. As were the years she was engaged in ministry at Saint Vincent Hospital, Montclair; All Souls Hospital, Morristown; Saint Elizabeth Hospital and Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth.

As we know, Therese’s active ministry in healthcare was short lived. For most of her life her own health was very fragile. She was unable to care for others, and at times needed others to care for her. Her dancing days ended much too soon.

She was given a cross, and in my opinion, she carried her cross with love and courage. I dare to say, she carried a cross which none of us would choose for ourselves.

Her physical limitations, however, did not interfere with her sense of living the mission every day, our mission, the mission of love.

She loved.

She loved her parents, her sister Christine, her relatives, and you her friends. She loved being a Sister of

Charity. She loved the warmth of the sun, the shine of the moon, the glitter of the stars, rainbows, animals...especially dogs. Indeed, she loved all of creation. And considered all gift!

More importantly, she loved being loved by you – her family, friends, the band, the Villa community – spending time with you, talking to you. We know how much she liked to talk!

And, a special love of hers was silence. She was a quiet, reflective woman of faith. One who treasured a private personal relationship with her God. Prayer time was a non-negotiable for her. In silence she prayed. In silence she suffered. In silence she ministered. In silence she entered eternal life. And now is face to face with the One she loved the most.

We thank you, Therese, for your love, for the gift you have been to our Congregation, our Church and to our world.

Rest in peace.

Sister Maureen Dunne