



**Sister Mary George Senderak**  
Entered eternal life on January 29, 2019

Sister Mary George was never comfortable being the center of attention. With that in mind and as I recall her strong objections to the many introductions I subjected her to on my 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a priest, I will try to temper my remarks.

Sister Mary George was my teacher in the fourth grade. She was very young and enthusiastic and introduced us to the world of assignment pads, and homework which required the signature of at least one parent. Because of the lasting impression, Sr. Mary George made on me when she taught us the art of letter writing, I would like to structure my homily in the form of a thank you letter to her.

Dear Sister Mary George,

I was a bit intimidated as I approached your bedside at the Villa and realized that I had never seen you without your veil. My fears were soon gone as I remember that to me you were always the quintessential Sister of Charity. The way you lived your charism has remained with me from the time I was nine until today at 70 years old.

You explained to me the power of witness when you shared that it was the example of the sisters, and the priest friends of your brother Fr. George who drew you to the Sisters of Charity even though you had a cousin who was a SSND (School Sister of Notre Dame). Your prayer life was central to your ministry and your willingness to respond to the call of your congregation from Newark to Kearney, to Bayley Ellard and the College of Saint Elizabeth. Your self-discipline was evident in the fact that you completed your degree while teaching full time and attending classes on Saturdays. Higher studies were pursued in the summers earning you an MBA from Notre Dame and a doctorate from TC Columbia.

When I heard of your passing I was in route to a meeting at the College of Saint Elizabeth. When I announced that you had gone home to the Lord, so many stories were told of the woman who was so revered by her colleagues and peers.

There are so many things for which I want to say thank you. Among them I include the following:

Thank you, Sister for being a part of my lie

Thank you for your love of Jesus and His Church

Thank you for your dedicated commitment to the wonderful community of the Sisters of Charity

Thank you for choosing the readings for today's Liturgy which reflect your sure and certain hope in the power of the Resurrection that awaits you

Thank you for all you did for the College Community even after your retirement

Thank you for your affirmation and support on my vocation journey, which I am sure took roots in your classroom

I was always Father Tom to you despite our long relationship. Sister Mary George you are a gift to your family, your sisters your colleagues and to me personally. Soon we will be sharing the Eucharist, the Bread of Life, but

you will be seeing this Bread of Life face to face. Say Hi to Sister Miriam Teresa for us. Rest in peace, Sister Mary George.

With gratitude, love and prayers,

Your pupil

Thomas McDade

Msgr. Thomas McDade  
(Homily given at funeral Mass)