

*Sister Lorraine Marie Baller, BVM (Charlita)*  
*Wake Stories/Reflections*  
*Marian Hall Chapel, Aug. 7, 2014*

### **Sister Katherine Keating, BVM**

I worked with Lorraine at Cathedral High School for almost 10 years. My job was to assign the crummy jobs. When I would go to the nuns I would say, "The will of God calls." I said to Lorraine, "I've got a job for you, Lorraine." She said, "What is it?" And I said, "It's to take study hall." "Oh," she said, "That doesn't sound too bad." I said, "But it's in the auditorium with 125 kids." She said, "I'll try it." I used to call her the Sergeant at Arms because anytime you went in there, they *really* were studying. As many of you know, that doesn't always happen in a study hall.

I got to know her a little bit better after I moved here and took her to Wellness a few times. I noticed a picture of a young man in a Navy uniform in her room; I believe it was her father. I said, "Lorraine, all those times I "promoted" you at the Cathedral, now I see you should have been an admiral." Lorraine, enjoy your new life.

### **Sister Jeroma Day, BVM**

A long, long time ago I lived with Lorraine at Our Lady of the Angels. The sketch that illustrates the passage that Deanna Carr just read really brings to mind how Lorraine was in those earlier days. (*The sketch is of three people dancing and rejoicing.*) She had such a bounce to her step and she was indeed filled with awe. She loved her students. She was very supportive of any programs or activities that involved the school. It was also a joy that during that time, Lorraine would have her dad and her two sisters Jeannette and Charlene over for Sunday dinner.

Even though many years have passed since I lived with her at OLA, it was a surprise when she came here. Of course, I should have expected it since we are all getting older. Lorraine always recognized me when I went to visit her. She would always say, "Are you keeping out of trouble?" That was one of her favorite phrases. I was filled with sadness when Lorraine was up on fourth floor and did not respond in her same fun-loving way. Lorraine, you are now at peace with all your loved ones, with your friends from OLA and with all of our BVM sisters. Don't forget us; we count on your prayers.

### **Sister Anne Buckley, BVM**

I lived with Lorraine at Cathedral High School in Chicago and then at Wright Hall. Speaking of the fourth floor, sometimes she would be conducting activities. She'd have a lot going on which I didn't understand, but then she'd say, "Now, will you do that?" I'd say, "Yes, I will." And she'd say, "That's very good. Now don't worry about it." She was so kind even in that situation; she was just so thoughtful. I never really saw her in the classroom because when you are teaching yourself, you really don't get into another classroom. That was such an insight into how she was so caring to those with whom she worked.

### **Sister Anita Therese Hayes, BVM**

Lorraine was in our set, the Set of 1941. I think we entered with over forty but were professed with 34. Every year our set would send out a Christmas letter so we could keep in touch with everybody. That was very important; we were a very close set. Lorraine always appreciated it so much. I would get a little note from her to thank me for organizing it. After we were professed,

we were sent out and didn't get to see each other for a very, very long time. But every time we got together, she was just wonderful. She was so happy; we all were happy.

When she came to Mount Carmel, it was good just to visit her on the third floor. Every time you went to see her, she had a little bit of candy or something to pass around so she could share something with you. When she went up to fourth floor, I would go and visit her and she'd look at me and say, "Oh, it's you, is it." When I would leave, she would always say, "Now behave."

I was looking at the sketch in the program. I think it really exemplifies our set because that's what we liked, a good time. There were many times in the postulate when we got that little message to behave ourselves. So, Lorraine, we will carry on and we will try to behave ourselves. Thank you for all you have given to us.

### **Sister Brigid Mary Hart, BVM**

My memory of Lorraine is from the Cathedral convent. I came back from Colorado always having lived in relatively small places. I was working at Wright Hall but Pat Griffin would invite me to come down and have supper at the Cathedral. What I remember in those dark halls and the elevators was Lorraine. I remember Lorraine being the peace/piece of hospitality, that peace/piece of being happy and joyful and welcoming and always having time for someone. I appreciate Lorraine for that and say thank you.

### **Sister Carol Marie Baum, BVM**

I was Lorraine's letter writer. I want you to know it was amazing the number of people who kept in touch with her on a regular basis and also a few who would always make sure she had a wonderful package coming her way that had a fair amount of chocolate, a little hand and face cream, and also some surprises. It was wonderful to be able to connect with them.

As I got to know Lorraine, what amazed me was the happiness in which she was able to deal with some of the setbacks that came her way in terms of health and her inability to be on her own. When she had to use a walker regularly and later a wheelchair, I can honestly say I never heard a cross word out of her. Her patience was most interesting. There were times when she had to wait quite a while for someone to take care of her needs, and yet she was always very gracious. So Lorraine, you have taught some wonderful lessons to me.

### **Sister Anne Buckley, BVM**

While it's true that Lorraine was very gracious, sometimes she wanted me to do something that the nurses were supposed to do. I would be persona non grata when I didn't do it. She would say, "Can you get me out of the chair?" or "Take me there." I said, "No, I'm just a visitor here." I forget exactly what she said, but basically it was, "Oh, get yourself a backbone!"