

Sister Gertruda Struble, BVM
Wake Stories/Reflections
Marian Hall Chapel, May 14, 2015

Sister Donna Schauf, BVM

I lived with Sister Gertruda for about nine months in the mid-1990s at St. Joseph Convent in Wichita, Kan. She was very kind and caring to all of us who lived there. She also was very loving and kind to Sister Dorene Good who died in Wichita. Gertruda and the other sisters cared for Dorene at the convent for quite a while before she moved to the Adorers of the Blood of Christ Convent. She also spent time caring for one of her parents in Kansas. She loved to garden with her sister Ethel who lived in Hutchinson, Kan. When the convent closed, she moved over to the St. Joseph Sisters and they would take her to see her sister. They were into their '90s and still planting a garden! I also remember that she had a good sense of humor and a cute little giggle. I think she developed that good sense of humor from working so many years with first graders.

Sister Kathyrn Lawlor, BVM

Sister Mary Francile Luking died one year ago last Thursday. When we served breakfast on the fourth floor, Sister Mary Francile was so darling with Sister Mary Gertruda. She would make sure Gertruda was at the table, ask what she wanted for breakfast, and she would help her eat the food. She was just darling with Gertruda! I went to see Gertruda on Francile's death anniversary and I said to Gertruda, "Now Francile is going to come and take you home." I asked Francile to do that on Thursday, but she waited until Saturday and then she came and took Gertruda home.

Sister Donard Collins, BVM

Years ago down in Wichita, Kan., a sister was going to move in and the sister happened to have a dog. Now there was a little controversy about having the dog. Some sisters thought this was the greatest thing since apple pie; others thought they didn't want the dog in the kitchen and they didn't want the dog in the chapel. I said that the best thing to do was to have some guidelines for the dog. Well, I don't think the guidelines ever happened. When I returned to visit in the fall of that year, it was an interesting thing because as the sisters came home from school, the dog would go to the door, bark and greet them. But the dog would not greet Gertruda, because Gertruda, as sweet as she was, had no use for that dog. When Gertruda came to Mount Carmel, I didn't know if she would remember me at all. Well, she looked at me and said, "The dog."

Sister Margaret Mollan, BVM

I lived with Sister Mary Gertruda many years ago; I believe in the 1940s. I thought she was younger than I; we didn't talk about age very much at that time. Now I find out she is eight years older than I. She was a very, very nice sister to live with, very nice. I will never forget her. She even invited me to go with her on her home visit. We went to Pretty Prairie, Kan., for her home visit and we had a lovely time. God bless Sister Gertruda.

Sister Catherine Jean Hayen, BVM

A week ago today when I was bringing Eucharist to the sisters on the third floor of Marian Hall, I went to bless Gertruda with the Eucharist and said, "May I pray that God take you home soon?" I got the biggest loving smile and a nod of the head. It took a few days, but God called her home.