

*Sister Gloria Wiegand, BVM (Phyllis)*  
*Wake Stories/Reflections*  
*Marian Hall Chapel, Sept. 1, 2015*

**Sister Anne Kendall, BVM**

I knew Gloria only for a brief time especially when she needed to come to Mount Carmel because of Annette Petty's illness. I can hardly think of her without thinking of her 30+ years with Annette. They were a real BVM presence in Big Bear—made many friends and served many people. Gloria had a smile on her face and was supportive of whatever adventure Annette decided to take. They had many good trips together all over the United States along with their two Pekingese dogs and their trailer.

**Sister Mary Jean Ferry, BVM**

When I think of our core values, I think a fifth one might be hospitality. When I think of Gloria, that's the word I think of—hospitality. She and Annette lived way at the top of a mountain and they both came down about two hours to our cluster meetings every month faithfully. They didn't come empty handed; they often brought us fish that they had caught in the lake. The wonderful part is that about once a year we would go up the mountain about 7,000 feet to have a cluster meeting in their home. That's where there was abundant hospitality—a delicious meal with freshly baked pies, flowers everywhere, and the atmosphere was extraordinary. So when I think of Annette and Gloria, I think of their great hospitable hearts. Robert White wrote an email that also speaks of hospitality.

**Sister Roberta White, BVM (Read by Sister Mary Jean Ferry, BVM)**

When Gloria and Annette left their rented mountain home in Big Bear, anyone who wanted to use it was most welcome. The summer after my mother died in 1997, I was living with the Providence Sisters. So two Providence Sisters, myself and two of my Sullivan aunts went up to the high mountains for nature's healing powers. I will never forget nor stop thanking these two heavenly BVMs for that experience. Thank you Gloria and Annette! This was only one example of BVM hospitality in God's Big Bear Mountain's natural beauty.

**Sister Anne Buckley, BVM**

I met Gloria a couple of times throughout the years, but when I met her upstairs, now I know why she always had such a beautiful smile. She doesn't look quite the same today without that smile. She used to say, "Gloria to God in the highest and peace on earth to men AND WOMEN of good will."

**Sister Pat Fitzgerald, BVM**

I knew Gloria in the 1970s when I lived with her and she was the superior/principal at All Saints in Tucson, Ariz. I'm glad Mary Jean and others have mentioned the mountains because I love mountains and so did Gloria. In those days in Tucson, mountains were pretty available, especially Mount Lemmon. You had to drive up into it, but it was out there. Another favorite place of ours was Sabino Canyon, which was a really neat little canyon that many people explored and enjoyed. The mountains will ring with joy at Gloria's arrival. Bless you!

**Sister Kate Keating, BVM**

I gave communion to Gloria on Friday. The first time I did it, I had never met her before so she was a little bit reticent. I started to sing, "Gloria . . ." and I never had any problems afterward.

**Sister Julie O'Neill, BVM**

As Anne Kendall mentioned, Gloria came to Mount Carmel in September 2009, just a couple weeks after I arrived to retire at Mount Carmel. So Gloria was the very first person for whom I became a volunteer letter writer. She had a couple of very unique things about having letters shared with her. First, lots of people,

mostly residents, misspelled her last name writing the “e” before the “i.” She wouldn’t get upset if they misspelled her name, but she would have a huge smile and asked me to be sure to congratulate them if they spelled it correctly. So I was going around the house saying, “I’m so glad you spelled her name correctly.”

The one thing about letter writing that was most unique is that Gloria did not like to receive a letter in her hand when she was doing anything else. That “anything else” could be watching a television show or helping to fold the many towels the residents usually help fold. She liked to be doing nothing when I got up there, so it required a lot of return visits until I could find a moment when she was doing nothing and then I could say, “Gloria, you got a letter.” Luckily she didn’t get a lot of mail. Most of her letters, few as they were, came from her friends in Fawnskin.

I tried to get her to share her years in Fawnskin. Unfortunately, she got to a point where her memory stopped at the point she graduated from Cathedral HS in Chicago. She had no memory of her 30 something years with Annette or of living in the mountains of Southern California. It was sad, because those are the years that most of us associate with her. But we don’t need to be sad for her because she lived very actively right up to the moment she died, on the 25th. She played bingo on the 20th and she went to sing-along on the 21st. She was active to the end.

In the program, you may have noticed a quote from her above the mountains photo. “I am truly blessed to carry your generous love and support with me on my journey.” And we can add “on my journey into eternity.”

#### **Sister Margaret Zimmermann, BVM**

I was fortunate to welcome Gloria when she arrived at Mount Carmel and take her up to her room which was on the east side overlooking the river and the Mound. As soon as we walked in, she went to the window and she got the biggest smile and said, “There’s the mountain and there’s the lake.” So she felt right at home.

#### **Sister Therese Jacobs, BVM**

I lived with Gloria in St. Paul, Minn., before she went to the mountains. She was a theology teacher at Our Lady of Peace HS. As you all have heard, her hospitality was great, but so was her gentle spirit, her loving approach to everyone. There was a time when anticipatory Masses began on Saturday afternoon that we would go to the local church and celebrate the liturgy. Sometimes on Sunday morning, we would get up not real early, stop at a donut shop, and we’d take the car down by the lake and just enjoy the morning. It could be the fall, even in the winter. I remember most of all at Easter we would go to the arboretum or a gorgeous park in St. Paul for an Easter morning sunrise. Gloria was always a loving, happy companion to go out and be among the beauty of creation. I loved being with Gloria.

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

I didn’t really know Gloria, but there is a story that she and Annette told, maybe at a Senate, that I will never forget. It was their summer ministry. They would go to the campgrounds, not only for their own nourishment and to get away, but also to minister and to be present for those many seniors, many people there who were lonely. I also remember their concern when a fire was near Big Bear—a concern for the earth and a concern for their people. They had a great deal of faith that we would pray. In the present moment, I think of Gloria being that for us. I treasure the fact that when she came back here we were present for her in all the people who ministered to her in these last years.