



## **Wake Stories of Marian Hurley, BVM (William Marie)**

Marian Hall Chapel, May 8, 2018

### **Michelle Ryan** *(Read by Sister Diane Forster, BVM)*

I worked for Sister Marian when she was the DRE at my parish in Los Angeles. I taught for about 15 years for her in various capacities, and knew and loved her for more than 20 years. She was a great friend to both my husband and me, as well as my four children. My youngest son once said of her, "When I think of what God look like, I think of Sister Marian." Sister Marian was a great friend to my family. During her time at Our Mother of Good Counsel, we were all blessed by her dedication and friendship. She was particularly loved by all the children (some now adults) and we have missed her since she left us. We know that God was so pleased with her steadfast and humble spirit. May the choirs of angels come to greet her. She was and will be a blessing to us all, now more than ever.

### **Father James Mott, OSA** *(Read by Sister Diane Forster, BVM)*

How grateful I am and the staff and parishioners at Our Mother of Good Counsel in Hollywood are, for the ministry and personal attention Sister Marian has given to students and families, for almost 30 years to this parish. She is dearly loved and profoundly missed. May Our Blessed Mother welcome her devoted daughter and present her to her Brother, the Lord Jesus, whom she served so well for almost a century. I thank her community for sharing her service and ministry with us out west. I was fortunate to bring her here in the early 1980s and then to return here before she retired. What a blessing she has been. *(He later added.)* I want you to know that at the Masses this weekend, we asked all our parishioners to wear light blue on Tuesday in honor of Sister Marian.

### **Sister Marguerite Murphy, BVM, Congregational Representative** *(Read by Sister Diane Forster, BVM)*

As Marian grew in love of the Creator and all creatures of the earth. She followed the example of Jesus, welcoming the children, healing the sick, and being present to others throughout her life. I doubt that she ever claimed that she "went to work" in the morning.

### **Sister Georgeann Quinlan, BVM**

Marian is such a beautiful person who has inspired me for years with her wholistic approach to life. Now she will be with us on the other side helping us to be whole. Special prayers for all.

### **Kathy Hurley Milo, Niece**

My Aunt Doll was a wonderful person. People asked me why we called her Doll. Because when she laughed, it was like Jolly Dolly. It was just the smile on her face. It was interesting growing up with her as my aunt. As I got older and talked with her as an adult, she helped me through some really tough times. For that, I'm grateful. She had dementia. When our mother had dementia, she was so comforting to me as well as others who needed better understanding and comfort while going through

this process. We appreciate the BVM community for all they did for our aunt to make her passing peaceful and full of love on her way to God.

**Cheryl Degerke, Former Neighbor**

I was Sister Marian's neighbor in Glendale, Calif. In fact, we met through her dog Sierra. Dogs have a way of bringing people together. What I would like to share is how accomplished of a woman Sister Marian was. You would never know it when you spoke with her, because she was so humble and never spoke about herself. One day she pulled out a book and told me to read it. It was about Mary Frances Clarke and her companions, the story about the founding of the BVM order. When I finished the book and started to reflect on it, I realized that Sister Marian truly embodied the charism of Mary Frances Clarke and her companions.

**Margie Campbell, Former Coworker**

I met Sister Marian first in 1967. She was teaching eighth grade at St. Cornelius School in Chicago and I was teaching first grade. The following year, she became the most beloved principal at St. Cornelius. When I first heard about Marian's death, I was so sad that my husband and I would not be able to be here today so I wrote something instead. I will share a couple of those sentences with you. First, my husband is sorry that he is not here. He was with me in October when we took Marian out to dinner and certainly had a good time.

During her time at St. Cornelius, she taught us how to be a leader, be fun and have a good time, all at the same time. Our faculty partied for every reason. One time we had a Halloween party. Sister Marian came walking the few blocks from the convent with the other sisters behind her. They were all dressed as a baseball team carrying all the equipment and laughing. We were so into partying that she talked us into having a clean-the-convent party when the BVMs moved to other locations.

When she left St. Cornelius, she left many memories. The children remembered her piercing, sparkling blue eyes that would make them tell the truth no matter what. She left a very large Buffalo nickel that had been attached to her keys. We always wondered, "Why is she carrying that huge thing?" It made so much racket when she was coming that it was like a warning sign to the kids. By the time she walked into the room, they would all be sitting there as good as gold. She said it reminded her of the years when the sisters wore the habit and the rosary beads warned the kids that sister was on her way. She left that nickel. I became the principal after she left. I still have it.

She also left a funny little bell that the kids loved. It was shaped like a turtle. When our school bell would not work, we pressed the turtle and the tail would buzz. She was always a part of St. Cornelius even when we needed an emergency signal for the kids. Ours was "Sister Marian is in the building." They always knew it was something important. The memories my husband and I have of being with Marian from those years and, more recently, here in Dubuque. My husband's name is Thomas, but everyone calls him Tom. However, Sister Marian always said, "How's my Tommy? Bring my Tommy to see me." He is sorry he's not here.

To all the Hurley family and the BVM family, Tommy and Margie are grateful that you shared Marian with us. We got so much from knowing her and it came from all of you. We will be praying with you today. In addition to praying, tonight when the two of us get home, I think the two of us will have a vodka gimlet in her honor.

**Sister Carol Marie Baum, BVM**

I had the pleasure of living and teaching with Marian at St. Eulalia in Chicago. Definitely, she was one who did not know a stranger, loved to party, and could cook a pretty good meal. We had two convents in that school at that time. Ours was the local house with the open door for anyone and everyone. Marian knew how to welcome people. Marian was also a marvelous teacher. She really looked for the students who needed that extra push or help or encouragement to say, "Come on, you can do this." She was a strong disciplinarian. Marian, thank you for being a gift to us at St. Eulalia. One other thing, Sister Rita Basta, who lived in California, when diagnosed with cancer, was the recipient of Marian's wonderful care through massage therapy. Marian came over a couple of times to work with her. That truly uplifted Rita through those tough days. Thank, Marian.

**Sister Jean Beste, BVM**

I didn't know Marian until she came here to Mt. Carmel. At that time, I was a Life Facilitator and would go up and visit her. She was always positive. She loved being here. She thought the food was wonderful, the sisters were wonderful, and it was so clean here. She just praised everybody – aides, nurses. There was never a negative word from her about living here in Marian Hall.

**Sister Carl Loras Pilmaier, BVM**

The day that Marian arrived here at Marian Hall, Peggy Devereux planned for those in Marian's set to meet on third floor where Marian was going to live. We were all up there and ready to meet her. When she arrived, we gave her a great greeting. Afterwards, the aide said, "I have been here 36 years. I have never seen anything like this before." Marian and I were at the same table in the dining room. At noontime, she would often come in late. We would say to her, "Marian, why are you late? Where were you?" She would always say, "I was visiting with my friend." Since there was never anyone else who walked in with Marian, I'm sure she was visiting with her friend Jesus.

**Sister Kathleen Spurlin, BVM**

I had the privilege of having a wonderful visit with Marian last week. Always that warm smile that she had. She has always been an inspiration to me in my religious life. We were in the same set. Her gentleness and her quietness always impressed me. She had such a gentle spirit, a loving spirit and a very giving spirit. We love you William Marie/Marian. God bless you.

**Sister Joan Stritesky, BVM**

Marian and I had a difficult beginning with each other in the novitiate. She was the head server. She had to go over to the fireplace in the refectory (St. Joseph's Hall). She would stand there waiting for a signal from me that Mother's table had taken their napkins off so everyone could take their napkins off and be read to say the prayers. Well, Mother took hers off but the three the council members left theirs on. Marian stood in the middle of the fireplace, looking over at me and asking me why we were not going. Later we talked. She said, "You have to get them going." I said, "I don't' push the Mother General around."

**Sister Mary Angela Buser, BVM**

In these past months, I've lived close to Marian. As Jean said, she was always positive. Anytime you would ask her how she was doing, even when it was evident that she wasn't doing very well, her

response would be, "I have nothing to complain about." I think that is a wonderful example for all of us. Thank you, Marian.

### **Mary Lou Coughlin, Friend**

Listening to all of your comments and memories of Marian, you can imagine my joy that I got to be her friend for 50 years and live with her 40 years and to me a part of all of this in a fun way. I walked to the cemetery on Saturday afternoon to see where her body's resting place was going to be. I was here for Sister Patricia Potok's funeral and quite taken by the fact that she got her LPN and was a foot care person for all of you. When I got to the cemetery, I realized that Marian would be resting right next to her. So God has the foot person and the hand person for eternity side by side. It makes my heart happy.

At the Wellness Works and Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish, they have decided that for as long as we needed them, they will have Irish wakes for Marian so everyone can put their stories and joys together for her. If Sister Mary Jean Ferry were here, what would she all have us do right now. She would say, "Stop. Put your hands over your heart. Feel the love." I encourage you to do that right now and just be quiet for a moment so that you can feel the love of the sisters, her family and friends and Marian's presence here. Her spirit is with us 24/7 and is here in our hearts. I want to say I love you Marian, Doll! I loved you since before I met you. You never tire out. Your blue eyes were true. You lived the "Magnificat." Your spirit is now free in God's steadfast love. We can all story with you now 24/7.

To all of you, thank you for being here, sharing her love with your stories of her laughter, her peace, her soul and spirit. Thank you Jamie, Cece, Brian. I love how you brought the joy of life to Aunt Doll and all of the sisters here. How happy she was in your presence! I will always love you as Doll's personal, little Holy Family. Best of all was how she left her body, insuring you, Catherine, in the last hours before she went home with the words, "I am fine. I am fine."

I would like to share a story that was Mary Jean's favorite and, if she were here, she would want to tell this. It was well after Marian retired from Our Mother of Good Counsel and was in her eighties. She would often go to daily 8 o'clock Mass. One day, as she came out, the principal came up to her and said, "I know this is asking a lot, but the kindergarten teacher had an emergency and can't be here until noon. Can you take the kindergarten class?" Marian replied, "Sure, I'd be glad to." The principal guides Marian over to the little ones in the schoolyard waiting to come into their classroom. The principal said, "Sister Marian will be your teacher until lunchtime when your teacher gets here. Marian gestures to where they were to enter. One boy about two from the end of the line, when he gets in front of her, looks up and says, "Can old ladies teach?" In true Marian fashion she says, "Oh, let's go in and we'll see."