



**Wake Stories of Ann Daniel O'Neill, BVM**  
Marian Hall Chapel, Oct. 3, 2018

**Ron McDonnell, Friend, Wauwatosa, Wis. (Read by Sister Diane Forster, BVM)**

Sister Ann Daniel and I taught together at Holy Name in Wilmot, Wis. We both came there in 1959. It was my first year teaching and our rooms were adjoining. She had excellent care and control of her students and was very caring to me. Over the years, we have had intermittent communication. She surely is now another BVM angel. Thanks to the Blessed Virgin for bringing us together. Peace in Heaven, Ann Daniel.

**Thomas Eganhouse, Grandnephew**

I may have not known Aunt Peg, but I know she was a good person and I wish I would have known her. I want to ask God to please help her and guide her to Heaven. I know she is having a good time, a good life, in Heaven.

**Sister Kathryn (Kitty) Lawlor, BVM**

This is the season of peanuts and corn candy. Ann Daniel loved peanuts and corn candy. She would fix bowls of peanuts and corn candy during this time, particularly at Marian Hall. Since I too like peanuts and corn candy, I was very happy for Ann Daniel. Well, last Thursday, I got a jar of peanuts and corn candy, and went up to Ann Daniel's room to give it to her. She told me at that time that she was leaving for the hospital. She talked about her condition and talked about going to God. She was so real about it and so peaceful about it. I realized that she was indeed dying, which by last Saturday, she was right.

**Luke Eganhouse, Grandnephew**

I didn't really know Aunt Peg very well, but I hope she is having a good time in Heaven. I hope God guides her to Heaven. I just wanted to get to know her and to see her before she passed away, but I didn't. I'm sad, but I hope she has a good time in Heaven.

**Sister Mary McCauley, BVM**

It was my privilege to be with Ann Daniel in the emergency room. I just have to repeat what Kitty said. Honestly, I was so impressed with her common sense, her wisdom, her recognition of how serious her condition was, and her acceptance of it. A couple of times she said to me, "It's OK. I know I have a serious heart condition." Yet, she was greatly relieved when she improved a little bit when she got up to her hospital room and had great hope. She wasn't giving up; she still had hope. However, when her condition worsened last Thursday, again she was so accepting. I happened to be the one who entered her room at the time her condition had seriously changed and the staff was asking about who needs to be called. I want her brothers to know that she gave me all the directions, told me exactly who to call and who should make the calls. Right to the end, as beautiful as Ann Daniel was in her calmness, she was also in control.

**Sister Mary Angele Lutgen BVM**

I never lived or ministered with Ann Daniel, but I got to know Ann Daniel and Therese Beck when I served as Regional and they were living in Gilbertsville, Iowa. When I finished my term, I moved to Cedar Rapids. Ann and Therese would occasionally come to Cedar Rapids to shop, something they enjoyed doing. They would call me and we would meet for lunch. So our friendship continued. By the time I came to Dubuque, Therese's health had declined and Ann was very, very caring and attentive to Therese. When Therese passed, Ann asked me to help

her prepare the reflection for Therese. Our friendship continued, occasionally going out to lunch for birthdays and other celebrations. We did that in August this year, not knowing that these last two weeks would be our last time together. It was a privilege to be with Ann and to spend these last days with her. I knew she was ready. She told me she was and I always believed her. I am grateful for the gift of her time, her life, and the opportunity to share a little piece of it.

#### **Sister Carolyn Farrell, BVM**

I'm speaking for Ann Daniel because I know she would want to say this. She's thrilled with her grandnephews. I have grandnephews and grandnieces about your age and younger and they are very special to an aunt or a great aunt. I know Ann Daniel was good with children and that spills over to family. We are all grateful that you were able to come.

#### **Sister Diane Rapozo, BVM**

I worked with Ann Daniel here at Marian Hall for seven years. She was the associate administrator and I was in pastoral care. I never met Ann Daniel before she came here, but I could tell on day one that we were going to work well together. We had many, many good memories working here – fun days, hard days, growing days. Being with her in the hospital and watching the staff come in, I could tell that they just loved her. They were so gentle with her and so upfront. That's what Ann Daniel wanted. It was real privilege to be with her at the hospital and to share life with her.

#### **Sister Catherine (Kitty) Ornellas, BVM**

I didn't know Ann Daniel until I came here. She was the most gracious person, very quiet and unassuming. She would always ask me about my sister Mary. Mary's here at Mount Carmel and is 95 now. She would always ask how she was. Mary always saw the smile on Ann Daniel's face and those big, beautiful eyes. One day we were sitting at table, Mary turned to her and said, "You know, you are a very pretty lady." I had never seen anyone turn as beet red as Ann Daniel. She didn't know where this old lady was going with this beautiful girl. Ann Daniel sputtered and changed the subject as fast as she could. It just was a glorious time. Ann Daniel, you are a beautiful person inside and out. I am glad for the time I have known you.

#### **Charlie Schumacher, Grandnephew**

Over the few times I've seen Aunt Peg, I could tell that she was a great person who cared about all of us. I hope she is living a better life in Heaven.

#### **Jackie Lee, Niece**

We knew Ann Daniel as Aunt Peg. I'm sitting, listening, and looking at all the pictures. All these years, I thought that Aunt Peg had two different personalities – one with her family and one with her Sisters. Seeing everybody together and hearing the memories, she was the same all around. She was caring, family-oriented, non-judgmental, controlling, and in charge. When she passed, I talked to my dad, Phil, I told him that the one thing I loved so much with Aunt Peg was to watch her with her brothers. She was always in charge. She always told them how things were going to be done. "Listen to me." That's how it was in our family and you are an extended part of her family. Uncle Pete, her twin, Ann Daniel named him in her photo album as "Himself." That just sums it up, they were very different and yet very alike. We will miss her very much. She brought us all together, came to every event, and kept her brothers in contact with each other. I hope that remains with the rest of our family. All of us will miss her very much.

#### **Phyllis O'Neill, Sister-in-law**

I called our dear cousin in Ireland, Nellie, to let her know of Peggy's death. After we talked a bit, Nellie said, "Well, it's time for a little laugh, my dear. Let me tell you a story. When my dad (Uncle Jimmy) heard that Uncle Pete was bringing Peggy over to Ireland, he bragged to everybody, 'My niece is a nun. Not only is she a nun, but she is coming to visit me.'" She arrived, gets out of the car. Uncle Jimmy takes a look at her and says, "That can't be nun! I never saw a nun in a blue, flowered skirt and a blue shirt." Aunt Peggy immediately ran into the

house, put on her short veil, and never took it off the rest of the trip. Nellie said, "We all got a kick out of that story every time my dad would tell it. 'I never saw a nun like that before.'" You might be interested in knowing how I met Peg. I was a student at Mundelein College. God bless the BVMs! I went to summer school one year. Phil, then my boyfriend, said to me, "My sister is going to Mundelein for summer school this year." I thought, "Great! I can check his sister out and see what the family is like." The next day I go to school and I am on the little elevator that goes down to the bookstore. I ask, "Does anybody here know a Sister Mary Ann Daniel?" Nobody says anything. The elevator opens and everybody gets out. Up comes this lady who says, "I am Sister Mary Ann Daniel. What do you want with me?" At that point, I wanted to run and hide, but I didn't. I said, "I'm dating your brother." She said, "Which one?" "Phil." She said, "Oh, the baby?" "Yes." "What's your name?" Then she started grilling me. She got more information about me than I got about her. We became good friends. I became the chauffeur for their mother so she could visit Ann Daniel at Mundelein College.

### **Sister Diane Forster, BVM**

At various times over the years, I've been part of this choir or directing this choir. During many of those years, Ann Daniel sang with the choir, along with her friend Therese Beck. During the years, I was teaching school and working with this choir, Ann Daniel did so much for me in practical preparation for choir in large and small ways. She did printing and organizing of music. She enlarged music for sisters with low vision. During a rehearsal, she might quietly disappear at the beginning of the rehearsal to call choir members who had forgotten to come. During these times of working together, Ann Daniel and I became good friends, sharing many hours of conversation. She has been among what I call "my three-hour lunch friends." In generously sharing so much of her life and so much wisdom with me, she gave me abundant encouragement and peace. I have been and continue to be grateful. In her own notes for these services today, Ann Daniel had included three selections from Caryl Houselander's "A Prayer for Creatures." One is included in your worship aide. I will read the other two. They are an appropriate closing for this time of sharing.

I beseech you, be gentle!

Be gentle to the men and to the women  
and to the children,

    who hold their life in their hands  
    like a flower . . .

We are among them!

Come, let us pray

    that the seed of our life's flowering  
    fall not upon rock, fall not upon thorns,  
    or the hard frost or among weeds;  
    but that today's sorrow  
    prepare the world's soil  
    and sift for sowing tomorrow.

I beseech you, be gentle!