



Eulogy of Sister Eileen Anglim, BVM (Rose Francis)
Marian Hall Chapel, July 24, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the celebration of life of our Sister Eileen Anglim.

Eileen Rita Anglim was born on Sept. 15, 1930, in Kansas City, Mo., the youngest child of Frank and Rose Purcell Anglim. She joined eight siblings: Rose Mary, Frank, William, Thomas, Robert, James, John and Joseph.

Eileen entered the congregation on Sept. 8, 1948, and received the name Rose Francis upon her reception on March 19, 1949. She professed first vows on March 19, 1951, and lived 70 years as a BVM.

Religious vocations were abundant in the Anglim family. Eileen's sister Rose Mary entered the BVM congregation in 1932, receiving the name Jean Rita. Eileen was only an infant at the time. Due to ill health, Jean Rita was living at the Mount Carmel Infirmary when Eileen entered the community. While in the novitiate, Eileen frequently visited Jean Rita. It was then that the sisters bonded. Sadly, Jean Rita died eight years later.

Eileen's brother Robert joined the Redemptorist Fathers and took the name Mário Roberto Emmett. He served many years in the Brazilian Amazon and was eventually made a bishop. He died unexpectedly in Brazil in 1973 and was buried immediately as was the custom. Only afterwards did Eileen learn of his death. She was deeply saddened at not having the opportunity to say farewell. Eileen was especially close to her brother John who entered the Christian Brothers. He took the name Maurice and later served as provincial.

Eileen ministered as an elementary school teacher for 22 years. She was missioned at St. Agnes in Phoenix; Assumption in Los Angeles; St. Mary in Waucoma, Iowa; and Christ the King and St. Therese in Kansas City, Mo. After completing her Masters in Library Science, she served as librarian at Rockhurst College in Kansas City for ten years. She lived at St. Francis Xavier Convent across the street from college. Eileen and Kathleen Antol, BVM, who also worked at Rockhurst, would return to the convent for lunch and enjoyed watching the soap opera "All My Children" while they ate. Eileen moved to Chicago in 1983 and worked as a reference librarian and coordinator of the religious education center at Mundelein College and later as a librarian at St. Gregory High School.

After attending Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., Eileen ministered as a pastoral associate at St. Veronica parish in South San Francisco, and St. Catherine of Sienna in Burlingame, Calif. She relished the diversity of the mixed community in which she lived. It included sisters from two other religious congregations as well as another BVM. Each sister ministered at a different parish so the sharing of their experiences was always interesting. Eileen was passionate about her ministry, especially visiting the sick and homebound. She did excellent work with the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Every year large numbers of participants professed the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil.

Eileen retired in 1999 and moved to Wright Hall in Chicago. A maintenance man in Burlingame frequently inquired about Eileen from other BVMs. When asked about their connection, he mentioned that they had conversed frequently and then said, "She was the person who made me not afraid of death." A beautiful tribute to Eileen and her ministry!

The move from active ministry to retirement was difficult until she accepted an invitation from Ann Kathleen McDonnell, BVM to volunteer with the homebound ministry at Queen of All Saints Parish. In a short time, Eileen also started volunteering with the “Working in the Schools” program, which helped immigrant children through one-on-one pairings with adult volunteers. The pastor of Queen of All Saints commented, “[Sister Eileen] has a great generous heart that makes people feel at home.” Her volunteer work and camaraderie with other volunteers energized her and gave her great joy.

Eileen was a private person – reserved, quiet, but friendly. In general, she was not one to engage others in conversation, but she would dialogue about world issues and kept up on current topics. She described herself as tenacious, persistent and persevering. Eileen delighted in reading, listening to music, and traveling the United States and Europe. Eileen loved walking, especially in the many nearby parks and trails when she lived in California. She immensely enjoyed shopping and did so often, but always waited for the best deal before making a purchase. Italian Murano earrings were her favorite accessory; she had matching ones for all her blouses.

Making healthy life choices, such as walking and eating sensibly, was important to Eileen. Yet, over the last 25 years, she struggled with many serious health issues. Her recent years of physical and emotional suffering must have been a terrible burden, yet she rarely talked about it. She even managed to display a bit of humor, gratitude and grace. Last year when her health further deteriorated, she called her family and told them to come for a visit, supposedly commenting, “I want my flowers *before* my funeral.” When she could no longer receive Communion, the minister would offer her a blessing. Afterwards, Eileen would respond with a big smile or nod.

Eileen considered herself spiritually and emotionally strong yet still seeking and becoming acquainted with her God. Her 70th jubilee last September was a joyous occasion. Through many hours of pondering, her spirituality had deepened and she was in touch with her God – her *personal* God, as we heard in the translation of Isaiah 43:

“Don’t be afraid. . . . I’ve called your name. You’re mine.
When you’re in over your head, I’ll be there with you. . .
When you’re between a rock and a hard place, it won’t be a dead end—
Because I am GOD, your personal God.

We rejoice and praise God for calling Eileen home to a new life of wholeness, peace and unspeakable joy.