



Eulogy of Sister Geneve Moran, BVM
Marian Hall Chapel, Oct. 11, 2019

Good morning. It is good to be here to celebrate the life of our Sister Geneve Moran.

Lois Jane Moran entered this world on the feast of St. Andrew, Nov. 30, 1925, in Chicago. Coincidentally, her family lived in a parish named for that saint. When Lois began school at St. Andrew, she was delighted that everyone had the day off in her honor. It took her a few years to realize the school holiday was actually in honor of the saint.

Lois was the first child of Robert James and Genevieve McMahan Moran. Her father, a quiet man, worked as a mail carrier while Lois and her mother enjoyed going to the movies, especially horror films. The birth of baby brother Robert interrupted this routine. Supposedly, Lois told her mother, "Send him back; he's ruining our social life."

Both children learned a strong work ethic from their parents. Her father planned to send Lois to public high school, but she rejected that idea and found a job at a bookstore to pay her tuition and fees at the BVM's Immaculata HS. Likewise, Robert delivered newspapers to earn tuition for St. George High School.

Lois entered the congregation on Sept. 8, 1943, joining a cousin, Sister Mary Vincenzo McMahan and her aunt, Sister Mary Carolita McMahan, who strongly influenced her decision. Lois was a tall and regal presence at Mount Carmel. She seemed to be in command of every situation, which earned her the admiration of many in the novitiate. Lois received the name Geneve upon her reception on March 19, 1944. She professed her first vows on March 19, 1946, and lived 76 years as a BVM.

Geneve spent almost five decades ministering in education. She taught junior high for 22 years and was missioned in Iowa at Sacred Heart in Fort Dodge; in Chicago at St. Callistus, St. Ferdinand, St. Dorothy, and St. Jerome, where she also served as school secretary; in Casper, Wyo. at St. Anthony; and in West Hempstead, N.Y. at St. Thomas the Apostle. She loved teaching and her students loved her. After only one year at St. Dorothy, Geneve was moved to a different mission, leaving the parish priest to lament about the loss of an excellent teacher who related so well to her students. Through her teaching, Geneve undeniably embraced the words of Jesus that "whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me." (Matthew 18:5).

As an undergrad at Clarke College, Geneve majored in English and minored in Spanish. She later earned a master's degree in Spanish from the University of Notre Dame. Geneve was fluent in Spanish and taught it for eleven years at Cathedral HS in Chicago and 22 years at Regina Dominican HS in Wilmette, Ill., where she also served as assistant librarian. Geneve's students were very fond of her because she was kind, dedicated and always there for them. Geneve referred to both of these missions as her "favorite" and spoke often about her students over the years.

While teaching at Regina, Geneve moved into an apartment with her mother who could no longer live alone. For many years, Geneve cared for her with gentleness, patience, and love. It was during this time that Geneve met her good friend, Karen Malca, whose influence turned Geneve into a world traveler. She journeyed throughout

Europe and Mexico, sometimes on educational tours with students or other teachers and sometimes just for fun. Her family, being quiet, at-home people, were amazed as her adventurous side emerged, while Geneve was deeply grateful to all who cared for her mother when she was away.

Geneve's strong work ethic combined with the BVM mission drove her teaching ministry beyond a typical school week into the weekends and even into so-called retirement. Through the years, she taught GED preparation at Chicago Central YMCA, English 101 at the Rush Presbyterian Hospital, and English as a Second Language under the auspices of the Chicago Migratory Council. The closing of Wright Hall in 2011 brought Geneve to Mount Carmel where she continued to be a "world traveler" through her love of reading.

During her last years, Geneve was in persistent pain and rarely left her room. Yet, she remained concerned about the people around her and acutely aware of their needs. She was grateful to all the aides and appreciative of their patience and tender care.

For many months, Geneve was ready and waiting for God to call her home. Finally, the wait was over. "My lover speaks and says to me, 'Arise, my friend, my beautiful one, and come! For see, the winter is past, the rains are over and gone.'" (Song of Songs 2:10-11). Geneve's "winter" is indeed over and she has awakened to a new vibrant spring with the fulfilled promise of everlasting life.