



Wake Stories of Geneve Moran, BVM Marian Hall Chapel, Oct. 11, 2019

Sister Mary Angele Lutgen, BVM

Geneve was my eighth grade teacher and my sister's teacher the year before at St. Ferdinand's in Chicago. She was a wonderful teacher. She really excelled in English. I remember diagramming all those sentences and many other things we learned. We maintained some relationship over the years. During my two years at The Immaculata, I would often stop on my way home, which include three bus stops, at the convent to visit with her after the school day was over. I think I was often taking her away from her duties because she would have her hood off and her soft veil on. She was always very generous about sharing time with me. Thank you, Geneve, for your friendship and your support. God bless you.

Sister Karen Conover, BVM, Support Services

My knowledge is of only the last four years of Geneve's life. I experienced her as a person who did not want anything extraneous in her room. She would call and leave a message. "Would you or your helper Laverne come up? I have some things to give you." She was always sure that this was no longer needed or that didn't fit. She was distressed when clothes she knew she had didn't come back from the laundry. That is a common experience for many sisters. One day not too long ago, she called and said, "Open my closet door. There's a pair of black pants in there." I went in and got them. She said, "Look, they're way too big." As I looked at them I said, "Yes, they are too big because they are not yours. They belong to a sister down the hall." She had a good laugh at that. Someone said this morning, "I hope there's television in heaven." Geneve loved her *TV Guide*. When it didn't arrive in the mail as she expected, we went scurrying about to find it. She was definitely someone who was able to get to the essentials. I'm glad to know about other parts of her life and see the photos from throughout her life. It was really a joy.

Sister Anne Buckley, BVM

In today's liturgy something was mentioned about how Geneve enriched people. She certainly enriched my life through travel and teaching with her. She was a voracious reader; she always had a book going. She loved history. One time while we were traveling, she decided that she wanted to go see the Winston Churchill's war memorial. That did not enthuse me, so I went the Tate Art Museum while she visited the war memorial. She knew so much about so many things. She was so alive to learn. Not only was she a great teacher, she was a great learner as well.

Sister Kathryn Lawlor, BVM

When Geneve came here in 2011, she enrolled in the BVM Pioneers class in the Roberta Kuhn Center. For the next eight years, she attended that class faithfully. When she was absent two weeks ago, I knew there was something seriously wrong. Not only did she attend the class, but she had something to say about the sisters we talked about. The last one I remember her talking about was a sister who taught her at The Immaculata. I said, "What do you want to tell us about her?" She said, "She scared me to death!"

Sister Brigid Mary Hart, BVM

My experience with Geneve was during the time I was working at Wright Hall in Chicago and she was teaching at Regina HS. Her aunt Carolita, also a BVM, was going during the school day to take care of her sister, Geneve's mother. I remember an exchange between them at Mount Carmel after I moved to Dubuque. I was writing letters

for Carolita. Every Sunday, Geneve would come and bring her a Hershey bar. It was her friendship being returned for caring for Geneve's mother. Although there were many differences in their lives, there was this lovely sweetness that I admired.

Sister Catherine Dominick, BVM

I remember Geneve's faithfulness when Carolita was dying. She stayed in her room 24/7. I would go in and say, "Can I relieve you? Would you like to go for lunch?" No, she stayed and prayed with Carolita all the time, quietly, not out loud, just being present, knowing that Carolita was going to God and she was there to help her on the way. The devotion she had to her was remarkable. I think she had a devotion to many others as well.

Marion Termini Collins, Second Cousin

I didn't know Sister Geneve very well; we only met about 10 years ago when she was at a family gathering. My mom had nine children so she wasn't always going about to see all the relatives and, as you know, Sister Geneve was traveling about herself. I feel like we had similar personalities. I am glad to have visited her here with my sister Tara. I wish I would have known her sooner and had spent more time with her. Boy, was she ever alert and she had a good memory. When we were here, she filled us in on all the details of the family that were obscure to us. I'm glad I had that time with her, however short it was. I'm also glad that she has moved on and is with the Lord now.

Mary Therese (Terri) Moran, Niece

Sister Geneve was my Aunt Lois. I recognize a few of you; it's been a long time. What do I say about a lifetime of a wonderful aunt? I know she is in a better place. I have so many good memories of her. Mom and I would try to get up here at least once a year. On our way here, we got stopped by a freight train, but thankfully MapQuest got us around. We are sorry for being late and I hope my aunt forgives me. She was very prompt all her days. I have so many memories of her. My sister Kathy was not able to make it today. Our aunt got us involved culturally. She took us to our very first view of *The Nutcracker*. It was beautiful. We lived in the suburbs, but she took us all around the city. We were older when my sister Patty came along. Every year our aunt had to take her to the circus. I experienced my first international trip traveling with my aunt's group to London. All the girls were amazed that she was my aunt. We had a great trip. She loved traveling and reading. I kept her up on the Anne Perry books as they came out. The last few years were very rough on her. I would say, "No, no, no. The good Lord doesn't want you yet. Anne Perry has another book." She replied, "Good Heavens! Where is she getting all these books?" She was, like Marion said, very alert and very with it. As much as I dreaded it, I knew the day would come and I'm glad she is out of pain and at rest. She surely was loved by all of us. I'm consoled that right now she is with her family and so many people that she knew. I am grateful for all who came today and to all who shared stories. She will be greatly missed.

Carol Gonzales, Daughter of Cousin

I am with my mom Marilyn, cousin to Lois (Sister Geneve). I, too, am grateful for all that she shared with us about family over the past few years during our visits to Wright Hall and Mount Carmel. She filled me in on a lot of our family tree of which I wasn't aware. One special memory was from when my mom and her twin sister were little girls, they would go to the movies. It was Lois and Bud's job to go fetch them home. The twins would hide under the seats so they wouldn't be found and could stay to see another movie. I didn't know the story. It was something so precious when Lois told me that and something I will never forget it. She was a very stoic woman. It was good to see her laugh over something that at the time was probably very frustrating to her. We all appreciate the time we did have with her. When we were younger, we didn't have that opportunity. It was good as adults to spend the time we could with her. Thank you, Lois. We love you and miss you.

Sister Karen Pollard, BVM

I was fortunate to know Geneve from the very beginning of her life as a BVM because we entered together. I was always in awe of this woman who was tall, beautiful, gracious and always seemed to be in command. I didn't know her again until these last few years when I came to Dubuque. She was here and never really well. I was

fortunate to spend time with her even though she was always in pain. She talked a great deal about her family. I began to think I really knew these people. She also talked frequently about other sisters. Even though she didn't leave her room very often, she would ask about everyone. "How are they? I heard that they were not well?" The day she was anointed, she was very sure about the people she wanted to be there. She frequently remarked about the difficulties she had because of her health and how kind and understanding the aides and nurses were. I do remember that she wanted her *TV Guide*, that she knew all the shows, and that she could tell me about every Anne Perry book. She sometimes would send me to the library saying, "Would you get me this?" I was with her during her last day, her last evening. She never really lost awareness. She was aware of who was there in the room. I was sitting with her in the afternoon and said, "Geneve, do you want me to leave now?" She said, "Yes," and died very shortly after that. I am very, very grateful to have been part of her life.

Sister Anne Buckley, BVM

Since it's been mentioned how very prompt Geneve was, one time she and I were taking a class in Darien, Ill., on Irish history. Once when I picked her up, she came down and said, "How long have you been waiting?" "Just a couple minutes." She was earlier the next time and I thought I had better get here on time. So I came earlier and she said, "How long have you been here?" We agreed that we had to stop this and that I shouldn't come early.