



Wake Stories of Kathleen Marie Carr, BVM Caritas Studio, June 22, 2020

Mary Ann Carr, sister

The mind is a funny thing. When Sister Theresa told me that Kathleen had died it was about midnight. She mentioned that the family could share a memory during the memorial service. I panicked; I couldn't think of any memories. Kathleen left home to join the BVMs in 1965 when I was 13. It was not until 1998 that we lived near each other again; Kathy moved to Corvallis, Ore., to work for St. Mary's Parish where my family attended. I am very, very grateful for the nearly 10 years she lived in Corvallis. The fact is that we both had intense jobs. I lived 40 minutes away over a beautiful Oregon mountain so we didn't actually see each other as much as you might think. But those were very important years together. Kathy made sure she came to daughter Erin and son Sean's sporting events of volleyball, football, basketball, whenever she could. She was around for some of their teen life events at the parish and very happily she got to see Sean give the graduation speech at the Baccalaureate Mass for the four area high schools. All of her wonderful traits came out—her generosity, her compassion, her consideration—and, oh, that great smile that she had. She really helped me with a few work related issues having to do with relationships. I particularly remember an event when she helped me with forgiveness as distinct from forgetting. Kathleen loved her BVM Community. She had so bonded within this family of holy sisters. I am happy that she had the love of this second family for so long. Thank you for this celebration of life and all of your support this past week. The author is unknown, but my favorite quote for over 20 years is this: "Peace. It does not mean to be where there is no noise, no trouble, or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still have calm in your heart." I'm not there yet, but I'm working on it. Now maybe Kathleen can help me with it. Thanks for listening.

Patrick Carr, brother

It might have been Kathleen's fate to become a BVM sister or it might have been a conspiracy. You see, when Kathleen got her driver's license in high school, my mother volunteered Kathleen's services to drive the BVM sisters from Christ the King convent in Seattle down to the ferry docks on Saturday because a handful of BVMs traveled to Bainbridge Island on Saturdays to teach the little island children CCD. My mother was aware that my two aunts, who were sisters in another religious community, had been trying to influence Kathleen in their direction. It is quite possible that my mother colluded with the BVMs at Christ the King to enlighten Kathleen during those rides to and from the ferry docks about the wisdom of joining the BVM sisters. These sisters may have been teaching more than just CCD on those Saturdays. I think one of the BVM sisters involved was Sister John Laurian, now known as Kitty Lawlor. So if you appreciate Kathleen's contributions to the BVM Community, you may credit Kitty Lawlor for recruiting Kathleen to the BVMs.

Many of you know that 22 years ago, I gave one of my kidneys to Kathleen. On the morning after the surgery, I awakened to the fact that my entire digestive system was asleep due to the anesthesia. Kathleen's digestive system, on the other hand, was alive and well. As a result, she could order all the delicious hospital food she wanted whenever she wanted. I, on the other hand, was not able to eat or drink anything for five days. I was highly envious and nearly starving. Over time, however, it became clear that Kathleen had to endure far worse to prevent her body from rejecting the foreign kidney. She had to take many medications, among them medications that suppressed her immune system. As a result, she was fighting off infections for much of her subsequent life. I was happy to donate my kidney to Kathleen. I did not want her to endure the tribulations of dialysis and I loved

her. I also knew that she was doing valuable service in her many ministries as a BVM sister. I wanted her to be able to continue her worthy ministry. I knew something about Kathy's various jobs, but I did not know too many of the details. In reading the comments and testimonials on her obituary page written by those who knew her closely, I truly have been educated in just how valuable her services were, how much she was loved, and what joy she brought into people's lives. She meant so much to so many. I feel privileged to have been able to extend her life and help make that possible. Rest in peace, dear Kathleen. Thank you to the BVMs.

Victoria Smurlo, BVM

I've known Kathleen six weeks short of 55 years. I was a year ahead of her in the novitiate. We lived together five different times and got to be precious friends, first in the novitiate, then in the Scholasticate. The third time, I invited her to come to Wichita to teach. I just have to tell a little story. We all know that she was a party person. When we stayed for parties after football games once the school had gone co-ed, we told the lay teachers who would drop us off that they had to dim their headlights and park us by the fire escape so that we could climb up the stairs and enter the servants' quarters. Those were our bedrooms in this mansion that was converted into a convent. The lay teachers just thought it was the funniest thing that we were sneaking in late. We did it and we got away with it. We had three summers together at Seattle University. Those were precious times because I got to know the Carr family, whom I totally enjoy. I am grateful for their friendship all these years too. My last time I lived with Kathleen was when she invited me to Alleman High School. She was honored and loved by the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) community. I want to tell one little story about when we decided to go to Seattle for our summer school on the bus. This was from Rock Island, Ill., to Los Angeles up to Oregon and then up to Seattle. We dutifully met at the bus station at 11:15 and got on our Continental Trailways bus. We got as far as Kansas City where we had to transfer and go four blocks to get our next bus. I thought that was strange. I thought that we were supposed to transfer in St. Louis and not have to walk four blocks. I complained when we got back only to find out that our bus was supposed to be a Greyhound bus that was supposed to leave at 11:50. It was amazing because we landed in LA about the same time we were supposed to. Kathleen was always fun. She was always there for me. She knew me well. I would be amused when she would say, "Vicki, you're going to love this." Then she would tell her funny story . . . and I always loved it. I still love and miss my Katrina. I called her Katrina and she called me Smictoria. Three minutes isn't enough to tell all the memories and good times that we had. You already indicated many of her characteristics. Before I close, I want shout out to Pat because when you gave her one of you kidneys, you gave not only Kathy, but all the rest of us, 22 more years to love and enjoy her. I thank you and I thank God for the precious gift of this woman in our lives.

Michelle Watters, friend

I met Kathy 27 years ago when I joined her on campus ministry team at Clarke University. Working beside Kathy in ministry was an opportunity filled with learning, relationships, and a lot of joy. We were together at Clarke for three short years, but those three years cemented our friendship. Kathy was all about relationships. They brought her great joy. In my observations and in my experience, it was obvious to me that relationships were a strong value to Kathy. In ministry I witnessed her unending outreach to students and to staff. She would literally wear herself out connecting with other people. Needless to say, her circle of friends was large. On one occasion when Nancy and I were inviting Kathy to our home for dinner, I explained that it would be a simple supper. Kathy quickly responded that we could serve cereal and she wouldn't care as long as she could have time with us. Kathy had this great ability to be both fun and serious. I loved making her laugh, I loved laughing with her, and sometimes we laughed until we cried. In our circle friends, she was loving known as "the party nun" because she enjoyed where it was fun and we enjoyed having her there. For as much fun as we had, Kathy also was capable of having so many deep and meaningful conversations. Kathy was someone I could have a significant discussion with about the joys and sorrows of life. Her listening was filled with compassion and care and acceptance. I am thankful for those conversations; some of them were life changing for me. I know that I was just one of many lives that Kathy touched. Kathy's friendship was a blessing in my life. I didn't get to tell her before she departed so I want to say to Kathy now, thank you. Thank you for your love and support during difficult times. Thank you for all the laughter and the memories that we made. Thank you for welcoming me into your big heart. I will miss you immensely.

Karen Conover, BVM

Kathy was a great storyteller. Her recall of details was probably enhanced by repeatedly retelling the accounts of various incidents, from novitiate days through her various ministries and locations. Kathy and I entered together in July of 1965 at Guadalupe College. We shared being in *schola* and were also among the group selected by the dean, SM St. Ida Forsyth, (or Stida, as we all called her) for a special math class called "Real Numbers." It was a "killer" class, both in difficulty and for one's self-confidence. Kathy loved to recount the experience, since we learned years later that this was an *experiment* to see if college freshmen could succeed in a graduate-level course. Concerning the vacation of our set to Southern California during our senior novice year, Kathy regularly told the story of our being at a beach house located south of Santa Barbara. At this time, we were still wearing the habit with white veils. However, at this secluded site, we were all relaxing in homemade muumuus when the doorbell rang, and one of our more excitable and unpredictable set members went to answer the door. To the request to talk to the "lady of the house" came the loud call, "Oh, Mrs. Dolan, there's someone here to see you." SM Cyrilita (Anne Marie Dolan) was our novice directress . . . and she, too, was in a colorful muumuu.

Paula (Polly) Perry, friend

I'm so happy to see Pat and Mary Ann and to offer my condolences. I have known them for a very long time since when they moved to our neighborhood. Mary McDermott Connick is online here too. We have spent the last week walking through our lives with Kathy and her family. We all started in Seattle; I'm now in Arizona, married and moved to Everett. We met Kathy at age 7 when they moved about a seven blocks away on Greenwood. She was determined and responsible from the time she was 7. Somewhere along the line, we started calling her Mother Superior a long time before she decided to become a sister. Kathy loved her family and we loved her family too. As little kids we played together and her mother, who was always so dear to us, did not yell at us like some other mothers we knew. Her mother was always busy. She was trimming the hedge, but she would come back into the kitchen and we would sit and talk. Years later, I would be up in that kitchen, sitting there talking with her and having a beer. We spent a virtual lifetime together.

Keeping track of Kathy was a challenge, but we persisted. I was lucky because she came to Phoenix, where I was living, to visit Xavier High School several times. One time she brought her mother and we were joined by Terri, who actually entered the convent with Kathy. We had a wonderful time with Kathy, her mother, Terri and Mike, her husband. They had all sorts of memories that made everybody laugh. Kathy, of course, helped with dinner. She said I was too slow at getting dinner and jumped right in and gave me a hand. We also got to see the new convent at Xavier and had a tour with the sisters. It was hilarious. We walked in every room and looked at everything. They said, "Oh, my God, this is just gorgeous!" They said, "Everybody loves the sisters." These sisters were so proud of their amazing home and were thrilled to show it to us. I must admit that our most recent conversations over the phone over the past several years were all about her nieces and nephews, especially the grandnieces. She just loved them and could spend an hour of the phone explaining that to me. We have a phone full of adorable pictures. Kathy collected friends like other people collect stamps—books of them. I am so fortunate to have been one of them.

Mary McDermott Connick, friend

Along with Polly, I am a longtime friend with Kathy. I went to grade school with her. Those were the days when the BVMs had 60 students in their classes and kept law and order pretty well. It was so good to see Mary Ann and Pat. I'm thinking of Bill and Mike and his family, as well as her cousins Sister Deanna, who has passed away, and Bernadette, Colleen, and Judy. The great Carr family! They were such good examples for all of us throughout grade school and high school. I think I am just echoing what others have said. Kathy loved her family. I remember in high school her dad or the other dads driving a car full of us to the high school football games. In those days, it was a journey across town to the West Seattle Stadium. It was a great time. Lots of laughter in the car and then we would stop for hamburgers and shakes afterwards. Her house was always full of kids and laughter. We were so blessed to be part of the Carr family and their growing up experiences. Some of the later highlights were at Christmas when Kathy would come home because then she would call everybody and pass the information about us back and forth to different people from high school and Christ the King. She certainly loved her family. It's

obvious that she had many, many friends. She was like a diamond with many facets and from each person you find out a little different aspect of those facets, but it all reflects on the beautiful person that Kathy is. To Kathy, I say thank you for being such a good, faithful, lifelong friend. You were always such a positive influence. I love you dearly. I am proud to say that she is the godmother to one of my sons. Just so many wonderful memories. Thank you to the BVMs for giving her a second family and for the good education and all the wonderful work the BVMs have done over all these years.

John Carr, cousin

The one thing that seemed to make Kathleen the happiest was family. Every time we would talk or email each other, she wanted to know about my family. Not just the usual who, what, when, and why, but details. It could go on for 30 minutes or longer. Then she would share what was going on in her family. The thing is that her family wasn't just the one she was born into or the one that she joined when she became a BVM sister. It included many of the people that she had met since we last talked. "Her family" was her passion, her devotion, and her joy. In the few times that she came to visit me in D.C. and we had the opportunity to meet one or more of my friends or coworkers, when they later talked about meeting her, the thing that struck them was how happy she seemed. I think that is because each person that Kathleen met became another person in her "family." She would add them to the people that she thought about, prayed for, and she would usually ask me about next time we talked. I cannot imagine how many people her "family" entailed but it has to be in the thousands. Since Kathleen died, my life has a little less joy in it and her family has a little less joy, and therefore the world has a little less joy. But Kathleen connected us, made us all family, and in doing that passed on to us her joy, her passion, her devotion. What she passed along is this: that we should all care about the other man, woman, or child by making them not just another person but part of your family. I am a better person because of Kathleen. The world was and can be a better place because of Kathleen. All we have to do is see each other as "family." Thank you and bless you, Kathleen, for what you have shown us. Rock on, Kathleen!

Kathryn (Kitty) Lawlor, BVM

I met Kathy in the early 1960s when she was a student at Blanchet High School in Seattle. I taught her brother Patrick and her cousin Judy. Kathy claimed that it was her mother who made her get up early on Saturday mornings to drive Sister Betty Cover and me to Bainbridge Island where we taught CCD classes. She said it was then that she decided she might as well join the community. How blessed the community has been that she made that decision.

Margaret Mary Cosgrove, BVM

I have known Kathy for nearly 55 years; we entered together at Guadalupe College in Los Gatos, Calif. We kept in touch all these years and became good friends. There are so many memories, including times she, Ginnie Spiegel, and I celebrated together, enjoyed each other through day-to-day life. Kathy, Deanna Carr, and I shared time together also. I am sure Kathy, Deanna, and Ginnie are enjoying their reunion. Our Guadalupe reunions brought together good friends and great memories.

I used to walk across the circle several times a week to check on Kathy and visit with her. She was a diehard Seattle Seahawks fan; the 49ers are my team. Often we watched the games together apart, texting each other when our teams made a good play or scored or fumbled. We were both night owls, so we usually watched to the end. Kathy was very devoted to and loved her family dearly. She always had new pictures of her grandnieces and nephews. She loved sharing their pictures and their escapades. I will miss Kathy and our times together; she was a kind and generous person, full of fun and laughter. These last months were so difficult for her; I am glad she is healed and at peace.

Justin Carney, Clarke College, Class of 1995

My heart swells when I think of Sister Kathy and the influence she has had on the person I am today. She ignited in me a passion for social justice, gave me opportunities to experience community, and encouraged my growth in leadership and community activism. Her fingerprints are all over my life, from my fondest memories at Clarke to

choosing a career in city planning and community development. I love you, Sister K. Thank you for being a true spark in my life.

Carol Marie Baum, BVM

Kathy became my next-door neighbor in the Circle Apartments. Our unit had adjoining doors into the apartment so we had supper together many times, sharing family that would come to visit or pictures that were sent on our phones. There was nothing Kathy enjoyed more than a time to get together with friends over a lunch or supper. The last year had its challenges and Kathy made the best of what came her way with a quip and smile. However, the last couple of months were the most difficult as she continued to deal with various health concerns and regaining her strength. Kathy, thank you for all the good times and also for showing me how to meet the more difficult situations with a genuine smile and lightheartedness that you did so well. I will miss our evening good nights and the dinners we were going to share to celebrate you. Keep us in your ever loving care. You will be missed by me.

Karen Kane-Herber, director, Roberta Kuhn Center, Dubuque, Iowa

I would like to share a little about Kathy's presence in my life. I first met Kathy when I was a student at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. We only knew each other casually, but we were always very happy to see each other. Kathy had a way of drawing one out of themselves by just being her gentle, interested self. Fast forward 20 years and we met again at the Women in Spirit Exhibit as I was walking through, preparing to bring 150 eighth graders to it the following day. This connection quickly deepened and Kathy was a wonderful sounding board as I discerned leaving the classroom for something else, but at the time was really unsure what that something else would be. She was delighted when I joined the staff of Mount Carmel in reception, which immersed me in life here, and we continued to talk as I learned more about the mission and members of the BVM community. She began to ask me to consider becoming an Associate. I took a few years before coming to the conclusion this winter that I would begin this journey, and that Kathy would lead my formation team, and then life was dramatically altered by her illness and COVID-19. I feel great loss that we will not continue this journey physically together, but am overflowing with gratitude for our friendship and her guidance which I am sure will follow me in life until we meet again someday.

Brenda White, Director of Residence Life, Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa

The Resident Assistants (RAs) and their supervisors were blessed to have the opportunity to have someone as special and influential as Sister Kathy enter their lives this year. As a member of the Prayer Partners program at Clarke University, Sister Kathy played a key role mentoring, educating, and being a good friend to the Residence Life Staff. Not only did it brighten my day when Sister Kathy and our other BVM Prayer Partners joined us for our afternoons of activities and sharing, but it also had a big impact on our RAs. That is one of my strongest and cherished memories of Sister Kathy; not only was I positively impacted by our relationship but it was the observed and vocalized impact that she had on the RAs, specifically her Prayer Partner, Rebecca Underwood. Sister Kathy will always be a member of our Prayer Partners program and will always be there, supporting us.

Joellen Price, PBVM

During the three years of the Spiritual Direction Preparation Program (SDPP), I walked with Kathy on the journey. She was so willing and eager to help directees discover God's presence in their life and discern where the Holy Spirit was calling them. She found SDPP life-giving even when her own health problems were a challenge for her. Her infectious laugh brought joy to so many, including me. I was so inspired during our times of sharing and, no doubt, her zest for life will live on! May you rest in God's ever-loving presence, Kathy.

Annette Kestel, PBVM

I had the privilege of getting to know Kathy during the time that we both participated in the Spiritual Direction Preparation Program in LaCrosse, Wis. We traveled together from Dubuque to LaCrosse for the weekend workshops during the three years of the program. I always enjoyed our time together and our visits going and

coming home again. She is such a good woman and will be missed by so many! Peace and love to all who mourn her loss!

Deb Hansen

I work as a spiritual director at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in LaCrosse, Wis., where Kathy prepared to be a spiritual director. I never saw Kathy without a smile. She simply radiated love, joy, and Sacred Presence. I am so grateful to have known her for three years.

Sheryl Rose

While I am happy for her that she has gone home to God, I am incredibly sad. Kathy was my spiritual director during the practicum week of the Spiritual Direction Preparation Program in LaCrosse. We became very close during that time and I had promised to come visit after the COVID restrictions. She was a very warm, kind, loving person whom I am honored to have known for even a short time. Her fragile body just couldn't contain her amazing spirit any longer! May she rest in peace.

Rose Mary Meyer, BVM

I had the privilege of sharing in a parish where Kathy was ministering. She wanted me to stress the social teaching of the church. The people were already very conversant in that area because of Kathy's caring and leadership.

Jeri Cashman, OP

Kathy Carr. She was one in a million and I appreciated every suggestion she offered me during my vocation ministry with her and Lou Anglin, BVM. We really stretched ourselves with *Dubuque's Got Sisters*, overnights with discernment retreats, having our best daytime retreats across the street from where Kathy lived. Our wonderful times were getting to meet the other sisters. We enjoyed sharing their food and getting to know the Franciscans, the Dominicans, the Presentations, and the BVMS. Each of us had many talents and Lou, Ginny Heldorfer, OSF and Rita Cameron, PBVM were always ready to lead our groups. We had regular meetings with other sisters from LaCrosse, other Benedictine sisters and two great men, Adam and Len, from Dubuque. It ended with breakfasts at Caroline's. I know I can at last now reveal that Kathy always secretly slipped my breakfast bill under the table with a wide smile as she would never let me pay. I have become her now. I will always miss her.

Rita Cameron, PBVM

Kathy Carr will be remembered for many acts of kindness. She always welcomed everyone whether she knew the person well or it was their first meeting. Her love and compassion were evident in all her actions and interactions. There are many young people in the world today that are further along on their spiritual journey because of their interactions with Kathy Carr. As a member of *Dubuque's Got Sisters*, Kathy helped educate the broader community about the role of religious sisters in the world. We are all blessed because of our relationship with Kathy Carr.

Virginia Heldorfer, OSF, Dubuque, Iowa

I first met Kathy back in the late 1980s when she was campus minister at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, and I was doing my first stint as Franciscan vocation minister. Kathy was most welcoming and inviting. She knew the students well and got me in touch with several of them. I was/am most grateful. Fast forward a few years to 2009 when I returned to vocation ministry. Kathy was also in that position. We did several *Dubuque's Got Sisters* projects, which included retreats at colleges, billboards, "Come and See" weekends, and more. However, the most memorable get-togethers were our luncheon gatherings at Caroline's with Sister Rita Cameron, PBVM, Jeri Cashman OP, Lou Anglin, BVM, Kathy and I. We called ourselves the DAVA (Dubuque Area Vocation Association) Divas! Thanks, Kathy, for sharing your love of life with all of us.

Bobbi Bussan, OSB

I first met Kathy through our vocation ministry and DAVA. What a grace-filled, loving, and generous woman! She really hung in through a lot of health issues with a smile and perseverance. I am deeply sad for her loss. My prayer to her sisters and family.

Gina Burkart, BVM Associate & Learning Specialist, Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa

I met Kathy during a Busy Person's Retreat at Clarke University. Kathy could light up the room with her smile. Her faith and joy was infectious and her kind heart and faith led me to share openly. During our week together, she helped me to discern that God was calling me to become a BVM Associate. And, she agreed to be my partner on my journey. That was the beginning of a close friendship and many meetings of faith and sharing. Kathy was such a blessing. I cherished my meetings with her. She had a way of making you feel like you were the only person in the world who mattered as she gave you her complete attention and shared so much wisdom. I am grateful for my memories and miss her deeply—but am happy that she is finally sharing eternal life with God.

Sisters Elaine and Jeanie Hagedorn, CHM

We are the Hagedorns, two Sisters of Humility who were fortunate to know Kathy Carr during her time of ministry here in Des Moines. Along with her deep spirituality and prayerful spirit, Kathy was so much fun. We shared many good times with Kathy and her housemate Sister Linda Roby, BVM. For example, since Elaine worked in pastoral ministry at Visitation Parish (a highly respected BVM parish!), the four of us went Christmas caroling to the parish's senior shut-ins, Elaine in her Santa suit and the others in seasonal attire. Jeanie remembers regular Wednesday evening dinners hosted by our BVM friends—always a time of sharing friendship, good food, and prayer. We are so grateful for Kathy's joy-filled influence in our lives and in the city of Des Moines.

Linda Roby, BVM

Living with Kathy in Des Moines was an absolute delight! We so enjoyed setting up "a new BVM house," where laughter, prayer, and sharing were in abundance. Years later we reconnected as Cluster friends when she moved to Oregon to minister at the parish in Corvallis. She loved sharing photos of her family, especially as her beloved grandnieces grew. Thank you, dear Kathy, for all the years and all the joys we shared!

Susan Dolter, Asbury, Iowa

Kathy was my almost-spiritual adviser. I met her several years ago, when she agreed to be my companion for a Busy Person's Retreat (BPR) sponsored by Clarke University, where I was employed. My silent reaction when she introduced herself to me was: Wow! What a beautiful smile! After that first BPR, I was privileged to be with Kathy for two more. Kathy knew instinctively when to speak and when to remain silent. Because I am a chatterbox (a flaw I need to work on), I generally filled our time together with what I felt I needed to say. Kathy listened, nodding now and then and, of course, smiling. In my penultimate conversation with her, she asked me a question that brought me up short and that I have continued to ponder over the past two years. She said, "Sue, I know you love God. But do you trust Him?" Oh, my! How had she seen so deeply into my soul? I stumbled through a reply that I cannot remember. But I'll never forget her gentle response: "Most of us have trust issues with God. We need to remember that, where God is concerned, love is trust." So I trust that God has swept Kathy into His arms and is holding her close, whispering to her, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have helped build my kingdom on earth. Welcome, welcome home!"

Kathleen Seely, friend

My memories of Kathy go back almost 60 years to our time together at Bishop Blanchet High School in Seattle. She was the little curly-headed spark plug in any gathering! Her energy—and her laughter—was infectious. When Sister Kathy returned home for visits with family, it was an opportunity for her many friends to get together to break bread with one another. Her presence brought light and grace to the gathering; it was truly Eucharist for those of us gathered at the table. Rest in peace, dear friend!

Bernadette Carr Hart, cousin

What to say about Kathleen? Although Kathleen was the eldest of five children, she was my “little cousin,” one I used to babysit. While we were growing up, her family lived about four blocks from ours. Her family lived two blocks west of Christ the King Grade School in Seattle where we were taught by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our family lived about two blocks east of the school. Kathleen and her family were referred to as the “Greenwood Carrs” because they lived on Greenwood Avenue and to differentiate them from us, the “Evanston Carrs.” And Kathleen was very much a Greenwood Carr. What did it mean to be a Greenwood Carr? It means that you take your sustenance from being with people; Kathleen epitomized that. She loved people; she loved being around people. She took great delight in family, friends, students, and all the people she met while working in various ministries. And we, her cousins, benefitted from the joy that she exuded. We also benefitted greatly in another way. When our sister, Deanna, retired from parish ministry and returned to Mount Carmel, we knew that Kathleen would always be there for Deanna, taking our place, so to speak, not as a BVM sister but as a sister, one of the Evanston Carrs. We will always be grateful to her for all she did for Deanna and for us. Rest in peace, dear Kathleen. You deserve it.

Colleen Wartelle, cousin and sister of Deanna Carr, BVM

Growing up, Kathleen and her brothers and sister spent a lot of time at our house on Evanston Avenue in Seattle. We called them the Greenwood Carrs, for no other reason than that they lived on Greenwood Avenue. We all went to Christ the King school together and later to Blanchet High School. We saw them often and were close in those growing up years. As we grew to adulthood, we went our separate ways and continued with our own pursuits—marriages, families, careers and, in her case as well as my sister Deanna, becoming members of the BVMs.

Although we kept in touch, it was during the last 10 years and especially following Deanna's move back to Dubuque that Kathy became more like a sister than a cousin. She and Deanna grew close and the bond they had grew stronger and more important as Deanna's health declined. It was Kathy we relied on to be a watchful presence in her life. She took on that role and much more. I have trouble finding words that adequately express how much I and my sisters owe to her. Even as she was struggling with her own health, she was there to help Deanna. Kathy was a loyal, loving, and devoted friend to us all. She gave of herself without any hesitation or limits. She guided us kindly and lovingly through some very dark days. She set quite a high bar to go beyond what we think is possible for us to do in order to serve others. Our family will miss her but we won't forget her.

Nancy McCarthy, BVM

My first experience with Kathy was sharing/planning service trips when she was on the initial formation team and I was an associate coordinator. Kathy was wonderful to work with and had so much to offer all of us—most especially in the area of creating very meaningful prayers to be incorporated into whatever we were doing and wherever we were. Chicago, Dubuque, and Milwaukee were the “big groups.” Kathy's generosity with her gifts helped us reach so many people. My other outstanding memory of Kathy is from this past year. She was my spiritual director during our retreat last summer and then we continued meeting. She was exactly what I needed in a time of transition. I'll be forever grateful for the times we shared as well as missing her in so many ways. No words are really adequate to express how grateful I am for her presence in my life.

Catherine Dunn, BVM, President Emerita, Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa

I first met and got to know Kathy when she was campus minister at Clarke University. She was deeply loved and respected by the students. They seemed to follow her everywhere. She was a terrific listener and the students knew she loved them! What a gift she was to all of us. She has continued to be involved at Clarke in the Prayer Partner Program between BVMs and student Resident Assistants and in the Busy Person's Retreats. We will miss her! I will miss her lots. We never lost touch with each other. Blessings, love, and peace as you join our BVM Saints!

Mary Gene Kinney, BVM

I am so sad at the loss of Kathy, although I know she has been released from her suffering. I first met Kathy through her mother Gen. Gen and my mother had become best friends through the BVM Mothers Club. When I went to visit, I heard a lot about Kathy and could not wait to meet her. When I did meet her, she was exactly as her mother described her: fun, full of life, bright, and generous. Over the years, Kathy and I shared about our families and about the great Northwest. Kathy was so proud of her family and shared with great joy about each new addition. The last time I spoke to her she was moving to Mount Carmel “for a time” because, as she said, “my kidney is not doing so well.” Although she had health problems over these last years, she never lost her love of life and her love for other people. I will miss her bright and loving spirit.

Diane Broderick, BVM Associate

Kathy led my discernment group as I was studying for BVM Association. I did not know her, but immediately knew I was blessed by the connection. Her suggestions, questions, and points were soulful and directly but gently extended. To commence our first time meeting in person, Kathy stood back apprising me and said, “Yep. I can tell you’re a hugger.” She proceeded toward me with arms outstretched and our relationship has never altered from that embrace. Our connections grew more spiritual and intellectual, but her embrace of me and life has not altered. What a brave, gentle soldier for Christ. Health fears and limits were tackled with gusto and grace. Simultaneously Kathy carved out energy for others and issues. A life force unique, quick-witted, and to be missed!!

Sean Bradley, BVM Associate and professor, Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa

Kathy and I met when we worked together 10 years or so ago on events to draw Clarke employees and BVMs closer together. She was a true “connector.” More recently I was moved to ask if she would be my companion as I began a discernment process. Our meetings were a source of great inspiration for me. Kathy brought important spiritual voices, including her own, to these meetings. She listened, gave thoughtful and humble feedback, prayed with me, encouraged me, and challenged me to do more than think and pray. “I am glad you are exploring these avenues and not just waiting for things to happen to you,” she would say. She also shared from her own experiences, including her vulnerabilities, as a way of helping me to discover mine. She always made me aware that we were discerning and growing together. Something that most clearly demonstrates to me Kathy’s love, thoughtfulness, and grace is the way we first began this relationship. Sensitive to the fact that she now lived in a space that had been the home of my dear friend, Sister Harriet Holles, BVM, Kathy asked if meeting there was going to be okay. Such kind, thoughtful, gentle consideration. After that, we never began a meeting without her reminder that Harriet was with us, too. I will miss you, Kathy Carr! But whenever I pray, I will know you are with us.

Mary McDermott Cornick and Paula (Polly) Piper Perry, friends

We are blessed to be among Kathy Carr’s “first friends.” It was the spring of 1955 when Kathleen Carr marched into the 7-year-old lives of Mary McDermott and Polly Piper. We were in Sister Mary Ruthella’s second grade class at Christ the King School in Seattle. We had previously terrorized Sister St. Felician in kindergarten and Sister Mary Alberta in first grade and later Sister Jean Anne in the fifth grade. Since it was second grade, First Communion was celebrated in the spring after Easter. We had made our First Communion but when Kathy arrived, she had not yet made hers. The Sisters arranged to have Kathy make her first communion in the chapel, a very big deal at the time! The Sisters also wanted to make sure that Kathy had music and, since the class already had the songs memorized, they held auditions. Polly got picked to sing and Mary didn’t. This exclusion has never been purged from Mary’s memory and has provided decades of teasing at Mary’s expense from Kathy and Polly!

We continued forward together—Kathy, Mary and Polly—through grade school and high school. Of course, there are so many wonderful memories! In high school, we would always call in the evening to help each other with our homework. Mary and Polly got the better deal on that one! Kathy and Mary were lab partners in chemistry. The teacher was Kathy’s Uncle Bill, Sister Deanna’s dad. The thought of chemistry was intimidating but turned out to be one of our favorite classes! Mary always remembers Kathy asking “Mr. Carr” a question with each showing a

sly smile! Slowly but surely Kathy and Mary figured out our assigned unknown—it was lampblack! Kathy was always so willing to help all of us.

Kathy loved her family dearly and shared updates on everyone! Thank goodness for technology! We have so many pictures and messages from Kathy that we can just pick up the phone and remember! Bless you, our dearest Kathy!

Susan Morrison, Otter Rock, Ore.

I remember when Sister Kathy came to our Parish in Corvallis, Ore. I am part of a women's group that has been together for 40 years. Sister Kathy joined our group and was with us for about half of that time. We still counted her as one of the Ladies in the Eternal Search (LITES) even after she returned to Iowa. I remember when we invited her to guide us in a small group retreat at my home shortly after she moved to Corvallis. It was a great time to get to know her. She was such a lovely woman. She blessed my life. It was special that she went “home” to be with her God on the feast of Corpus Christi! She will be missed.

Sharon Lesikar, Georgetown, Texas

I lived with Kathy at Mount Carmel Academy in Wichita, Kan., in the mid-1970s. What a loving, wonderful person she was! I will miss her greatly.

Anastasia Nicklaus

Sister Kathy was such a kind and fervent supporter of me in my two years as director of campus ministry at Clarke. I'm grateful for the contributions she continued to make as a spiritual guide at the Busy Person's Retreat. Her presence was one of openness and authenticity. I am blessed to have known her. May the angels welcome her into paradise.

Tammy Murphy-Flynn, former student

Kathy Carr was my religion teacher at Alleman High School in the late 1970s. She was so loved by her students. She taught a class on death and dying that was very popular. A strange class to be popular but that speaks to her teaching and love. I was blessed enough to have seen her over the years and it was always a pleasure. Her love of others and joy of life was a tribute to her faith and soul. I will miss her. RIP.

Kristin Taghon

Thanks to Tammy for saying what every student of Sister Kathy Carr would echo at this moment. I recall Sister's wise comment that if I don't like rain, I'd better not move to Seattle. For some reason whenever I went to Seattle it was sunny!! She also taught me Death and Dying and I'll never forget the funeral I planned, the songs I'd want sung (“Peace Train” by Cat Stevens was one), what I'd like someone to say about me. All good things to think about. Sister was always surrounded by students. I wonder what songs she wrote for her funeral. I am sure we are all saying things she would be happy to hear. Thanks, Sister Kathy, for your love and inspiration.

Joe Payne, former student

I met Sister Kathy when she was a teacher at Alleman High School and I was a student, and our friendship started immediately and continued for 40 years. She was one of the most open-minded, non-judgmental, compassionate, dedicated, and caring people I have ever known. She also was a fun person to be around and had a fantastic laugh that I will be able to hear in my mind forever. Thank you, Kathy, for all of your love, teaching (including introducing us to the books of Leo Buscaglia), counseling, and, above all, your friendship. My family and I will miss you dearly.

Marilyn Bailey

I was blessed to have Kathy's friendship through our years at Bishop Blanchet High School and beyond. Her visits home always drew several of us back together to catch up. May she rest in peace!

Kim Schmidt

Sister Kathy was the sweetest. She was my spiritual director for about a year and I will miss her. She was always kind, loving, compassionate and full of life. Rest in peace, sweet Sister Kathy. May the choir of angels greet you!

Debbie Gross

What a beautiful woman! Kathy was always so willing to help us at Loras College [in Dubuque, Iowa,] in any way that she could. She was a spiritual director for our students, so gentle and loving. I will always remember how caring she was to reach out to me as my dad was dying last year. She sent me notes always just at the right time when I needed them. She is truly an angel in my life!

Barbara Bollinger

Sister Kathy— a woman of wisdom, deep compassion, insight, faith, and faithfulness. A listener, yet one to speak out for a cause, teach, and guide. Serious, but ready to erupt with her beautiful smile and bubbling laughter in joy. She was ever patient with, and accepting of, another's situation, and of her own difficult health issues. Who heard a complaint, or knew her to stop doing her good work or learning new skills, or hesitating at yet one more request for prayers? She made me feel loved. And I loved her like a sister. I thank God for her, miss her already, and will never forget her.

Carla Popes, PBVM

I have many fond memories of meeting Kathy when she served in campus ministry at Clarke University and later when we were called to serve in vocation ministry. Kathy was a woman whose laughter brought joy to others, even as she struggled with health issues. Kathy was a gifted woman whose genuine goodness embraced all. Yes, her loving heart overflows with compassion and her kindness knows no bounds. Kathy cared for all she met and those with whom she worked. Thank you, Kathy, for your goodness and your ability to laugh at the days to come. I am so grateful to have been blessed to work with her. Until we meet again, blessing and joy to you forever.

Eva Baumann

Kathleen was a wonderful woman who I talked to on the phone a lot while I was hosted by her mother in Seattle back in 1983. Such a warm-hearted and wonderful woman who was always interested in life abroad in Germany and who took such good care of Genevieve, her mother. Well, since I feel as a Carr family member, I give my sincere condolences to the Carr family—to Pat, Mary Ann, and Bill and the other family members.

Mary Welch

What a joy and blessing to have known Kathy for almost 60 years. So many wonderful memories of our days at Blanchet High School, of gatherings at her mom's when Kathy was home for a visit, of her devotion to her family, her friends, and her faith. I will miss her. Rest in Peace, dear friend.

Marge Healy

I first met Kathy as a friend of a friend. I thank God for her life, commitment, and joy. Her joy is now complete.

Thomas Long, CSV

I taught with Sister Kathy at Alleman High School. She was an inspiration to the students, staff, and faculty with her sincerity, empathy, and humor. She left a great legacy of memories that is a gift to all of us.

Rebecca Underwood, student, Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa

When the idea came up of the resident assistants having "prayer partners" throughout the school year, I had no idea what to expect since I wasn't raised with religion of any sort. When I first met Sister Kathy, I instantly knew I was supposed to be on this journey with her. Sister Kathy was so much more than a prayer partner to me, she was a forever friend. We were always in each other's thoughts and consistently checked up on one another. She always wished me good luck before important exams and gave me a sense of confidence in myself that I didn't know I had. Sister Kathy always had so much excitement for my future and expressed how proud she was of my

accomplishments every chance she could. She always had me leaving feeling like a better person, wanting to do more for myself, and encouraging me to be entirely myself.

One memory I have with her was when she invited me to Mass when she was the lector. When I arrived, she instantly found me in the crowd, waved and smiled. To others who saw, it probably appeared as just a simple smile, but to me, it meant so much more. It was a sense of happiness, security, and love. Although I will no longer have Sister Kathy as my prayer partner for next year, I have the bigger honor of having her watch over me for my entire life.

Marilyn Wilson, BVM

In gratitude, dear Kathy, for the many years of our relationship. It all began over some 35+ years with a taxicab ride to or from some BVM meeting somewhere in Iowa (not Dubuque). Details fade but you would probably remember. But it was the beginning of many encounters—from meetings, being on Senate, prayer and other committees together, visiting each other in California, Oregon, and, of course, Dubuque. We shared mutual hospitality—food, fun, lodging, many walks, conversations, and family sharings. We exchanged initial formation wisdom and spiritual direction ministry insights.

There is one experience that I especially treasure. I was facilitating a retreat in Portland and I visited you in Corvallis. You took me to the coast and after a walk on the beach you wanted to show me a special bed and breakfast place. It was noted for its special rooms, each decorated according to an American author. We were not customers, but you pleasantly and boldly asked the receptionist might we see some rooms since you had a guest from California, a former English teacher. She obliged. So after Edgar Allen Poe, Willa Cather, and many more, I was truly entertained.

Denise Fox, RSM

I extend you and the BVM sisters my sympathy and prayer on the death of Sister Kathy. Kathy and I have been friends since 1987 when we met as grad students at Loyola-Chicago. Kathy and the sisters at Mundelein Hall were always so welcoming and hospitable, recognizing I was far from home. I lived in student accommodation down the street from Loyola. Kathy and I soon became firm friends. At a later date Kathy and Sister Vicki Smurlo visited me in New Zealand and I was able to return the hospitality. I am a Sister of Mercy of New Zealand presently living and ministering in Sydney Australia. Sister Vicki advised me of Kathy's death. Like you, we have had sisters die and we have not been able to join together for the funeral. Thank God for the technology which has enabled us to gather in new and creative ways to support one another. May Kathy's lively and generous spirit be at rest with the God she loved.

Mary McCauley, BVM

Little did we think that when we experienced the death of Deanna Carr, BVM, Kathleen's cousin, on Jan. 1, 2020, that six months later we would be celebrating the life and death of Kathy. I know that I am in good company when I say that I come to this funeral with a heavy, yet very grateful, heart. Kathy was so caring, gracious, welcoming, and inclusive that even if you had the opportunity to share just one or a few simple encounters with her, you were a friend forever. Her laughter was contagious, her storytelling ability unique, and her determination to live life to the fullest were gifts that will not be forgotten. In addition we who knew her well will always be grateful for her spiritual insight and wisdom. Kathy also gave us an example of how to handle medical challenges that come into our life, and as we all know, she had many. She accepted all, did her best to conquer them, and when such could not be done turned her life over to her loving God. Thank you, Kathy, for gifting the Carr and the BVM family with your presence and your spirit.