



Sharing of Memories of Paulina Sullivan, BVM

Caritas Studio, Dec. 16, 2020

Mike and Mary Alice Walsh, Dubuque, Iowa

Sister Mary Paulina Sullivan, BVM was like family to us. As a very close friend of our sister/sister-in-law Sister Mary Catherina Walsh, BVM Sister Mary Paulina attended many of our family functions throughout the years. From religious celebrations of baptisms, weddings, and funerals (and their associated Irish after parties!!), to yearly seasonal holiday family gatherings, to anniversaries, to graduations, to "let's have a party" get-together, Sister Mary Paulina was a staple in our lives for close to 50 years. We Walshes thrive on throwing and attending parties; and Sister Mary Paulina joined right in as a most willing contributor to our joy-filled times!

We thank Sister Mary Paulina for her commitment to her vocation, for the thousands of children whose lives she so positively impacted, for her prayerfulness, for her kindness, for her gentleness, and for her genuine love of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As she was part of our family, more importantly, she was also part of this vibrant community of amazing women. She loved her life, her colleagues, and her God. May the angels come to greet her and bring her to eternal joy and peace.

Judith Dewell, BVM

Prior to the start of the school year, the pastor of St. Irenaeus in Clinton, Iowa, organized a group of students to help the sisters set up the school prior to the start of classes. Many hands helped clean and unpack books and meet the new seventh and eighth grade teacher, Sister Paulina. Thus was the beginning of my friendship with Paulina. We discovered a young, vibrant, fun person who was to be our teacher and my seventh grade self was smitten. Paulina was such a kind and caring individual who was very easy to talk to and my friendship with her continued through my high school years. Gradually, the discussion of vocation became a big topic as she patiently guided me through the decision to enter the community. I'll be forever grateful for Paulina's love and encouragement over the years. I am especially grateful to have rediscovered her as a model for aging and moving into eternal life.

Kathryn (Kitty) Lawlor, BVM

Paulina is one of the reasons why I taught the BVM Pioneer Class for over 20 years. After her arrival at Mount Carmel, she attended all the classes up to the very end. She always greeted me with a joyful smile. During the vacation periods when I would meet her, she would ask, "What day are classes going to begin again?" Paulina was always very encouraging and I truly appreciated her.

Mary Angele Lutgen, BVM

I first got to know Sister Mary Paulina Sullivan when I lived in Rock Island, Ill., in the late 1990s. We belonged to the same cluster. Paulina and Catherina Walsh each year hosted the cluster's December Day of Prayer at Sacred Heart, Rock Island, where they lived. They were both gracious hostesses. I found the prayer day, guest speaker, and time to renew our vows together a special time. We were always provided with a delicious lunch that included time to share with other BVMs. I recall that Paulina enjoyed watching the birds in their backyard. She had several sweatshirts with birds on them. We reconnected again here at Mount Carmel. Paulina was always warm and welcoming when I visited with her. She had a twinkle in her eye and a wonderful smile.

Susan Nolte

Sister Paulina was the best person. She was kind, smart and gentle. She was always there for me. She had faith in me when no one else did. Her spirit will be missed by me and others.

Mike Ethington

I was saddened to hear the news of Sister Paulina's passing. She was my math teacher at Jordan Catholic School, Rock Island, Ill. She and Sister Catherina are considered legends at Jordan. They were exceptional teachers and kids loved them. I remember they both would attend the Bix 7 mile road race every summer in Davenport, Iowa. They would be in the same spot near the top of Brady Street Hill and I could pick them out as they would cheer me on as I ran by. They did that every year as long as I could remember. It was something I looked forward to each year, trying to discern their faces and voices out from the crowd. Thank you for the pleasant memories, Sister.

Joe Cavins

God has called home an angel. Sister Paulina put up with our eighth grade class; she had to be an angel. I got lucky and was a neighbor to the Sisters at the Sacred Heart Convent. Sister Paulina was a great listener, great teacher, and wonderful person overall. May the Lord hold her in the palm of his hand.

Terry Stimpson

Sister Paulina was a longtime family friend. She and Sister Catherina were the last residents at Sacred Heart convent in Rock Island. I assisted them in their transition from Sacred Heart to Mount Carmel. It was bittersweet because many of us did not want them to leave. But leave they did. However, knowing she and Sister Catherina were happy and comfortable at the Motherhouse eased our loss. At least both were close enough to visit. Sister Paulina is now with her heavenly family. Our visiting with her has ended. However, she leaves us with many great memories. She now soars with the angels. She will be missed!

Susan Norman

I met Sister Paulina back in the early 1960s when she was the new principal at Holy Name of Jesus School in Wilmot, Wis. I was but a child but I fell in love with a teacher who was firm and loving, who listened and guided a young girl full of mischief. Fast forward 30 years and we reconnected through correspondence. I remembered how she always spoke so lovingly about Mount Carmel, the Motherhouse. So I contacted them to locate Sister. Sister was at Sacred Heart in Rock Island, Ill., by this time and I resided in Central America in Panama as a wife and mother. We began writing regularly and I cherish her letters to this day. They were always full of wisdom, love, and encouragement. Sister was a joy to be around, gentle and with a good sense of humor. She loved God and all his creation. I'm honored and privileged to have known her these many years. May she rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon her.

Mary Ann Fremgen, former BVM

Paulina was the sweetest of the sisters I met through my dog Bronx. Her happiness in seeing Bronx was very high. Even if she had fallen asleep in her chair, the staff would tell me to wake her because they lived to see her smile. Sometimes when they remembered I was coming, they'd tell me they had just awakened her and she was waiting to hold Bronx. Dear Paulina, may you rest in peace with a smile on your face.