



Sharing of Memories of Alice Marie (St. Gerard) Dunphy, BVM
Mary Frances Clarke Chapel, BVM, May 7, 2021

Joanne and John Flynn, niece and nephew-in-law

I am Sister Alice Dunphy's niece. My father is Jerry, her only surviving sibling. I don't know where to begin. Aunt Alice had a presence in my life that is hard to describe and put into words. When I was little, she was a force to be a little frightened of. As I got older, I saw she suffered in pain due to her disability but she was the strongest person I knew.

We kept in touch as I grew up and I remember our family trip to Palm Springs and to the school she built. I could see how happy and proud she was; this was such an accomplishment. When I told people about my aunt, I smiled so much. She had so much joy in what she did.

I reconnected with Aunt Alice when she returned to Mount Carmel. My husband John and I visited often. We would go into Galena and spend the day and come back on Sunday and walk the grounds all day with my aunt. She was fun. She made us laugh and we had some great conversations about the world and family and religion. We will miss her terribly.

She could throw a great party, as you all have seen. It was in her spirit to be such a host and to make sure everyone came and had a great time!!

We saw the passion she had for her train set. My dad and brother share the same passion as she did. Her train city was beautiful and each year she would show us the new pieces she added. It put such a smile on her face, but truly it was what she got in return that made her so happy.

Later in life, we made sure Aunt Alice's remaining siblings were able to see each other. They were so happy to be together. It meant a lot to Aunt Alice. I was fortunate enough to see my aunt last week a day before she passed away. I carried with me the prayers and well wishes of all of her nieces and nephews and everyone in our family.

I told her the biggest party was waiting for her in heaven as there are so many of us who have passed before her. All of her sisters, their spouses, her two brothers and sister-in-law Myrna and all the others welcomed her with open arms. She was the guest of honor and probably took over as the host as soon as she could!! There is lots of Jameson and Amaretto flowing in heaven right now!! Be at peace, Aunt Alice. We love you!

Death Is Nothing At All

By Henry Scott Holland

Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away to the next room.
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other,
That, we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way
which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word
that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect,
Without the trace of a shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same that it ever was.
There is absolute unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind
because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you.
For an interval.
Somewhere. Very near.
Just around the corner.

All is well.

Nothing is past; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it was before
Only better, infinitely happier
And forever we will all be one together with Christ.

Nov. 28, 2004

Carol Marie Baum, BVM

My memories of Alice are many and varied as I came to know her when she came to live at Mount Carmel from Las Vegas. Our paths had never crossed until this time. I had the privilege to help her settle into her new home. Alice was a definite people person and a party girl. Her personality was infectious, and her storytelling legend.

Alice was one who relished the warm climate and, often in the summer months here at Mount Carmel, she would sit for hours on the bench outside soaking up the sun. It felt so good to her joints. She also supplied candy treats at Christmas and Easter and other times for the sisters that were gifts to her from friends for the sisters. Super Bowl and St. Patrick's parties were always a time to come and enjoy fun time together.

Education was a high priority for Alice as she mentored and encouraged staff to further their degree in nursing here at Mount Carmel and she kept close ties to make sure they were keeping up with their classes as well as keeping up with their work at Mount Carmel. However, the pandemic, move to a new room, and other health issues made her time at Mount Carmel Bluffs short-lived. She now enjoys the reward she so worked for all these years.

Thank you, Alice, for the cherished memories I continue to hold dear in the days ahead. You are missed and loved. Rest in the arms of the God who loved you dearly and you loved. With Grateful Heart.

Kathy Johnson Leach, niece

I have so many fond memories of my Aunt Alice that it's almost impossible to tell them all in a short period of time. Being one of the oldest of Alice's nieces and nephews, my earliest memories are those of when she first joined the convent and my parents would take us as very young children to visit her at the Motherhouse. I remember being in awe of the size of the house my aunt lived in and the river at the bottom of the hill.

There was also my first trip on a plane with my grandma to visit Alice at the school where she was teaching in Sacramento. My grandma and I stayed at the convent and the sisters dressed me up to look just like one of them. I still have the picture. There were all the years she would come back to Chicago to visit and I remember driving her to Milwaukee one summer to attend classes. There were also the years we went to Palm Springs to visit my parents and we would spend a lot of time with all the sisters from St. Theresa's. She was there for my mom when she was diagnosed with cancer and spent a lot of time praying for her and checking up on her. She was there for all of us when my mMom passed and helped to plan her funeral.

The most recent and very special memories are those when my cousin Janet and I would drive to Dubuque and spend several days with Aunt Alice and many of the other sisters. What great times we had on those visits with lots of laughs and fun. I will forever miss those weekends.

I know she is with God and was welcomed with open arms by her parents and brothers and sisters who were all there to meet her upon her arrival. Aunt Alice, I love you and will miss you.

Marie Greaney, BVM

Alice Marie was my dear friend from the day we arrived at Mount Carmel almost 70 years ago. We were pew partners, supported each other through good times and challenging times. Alice went on many home visits with me, my family loved her also. Alice's middle name should have been Generosity; kindness to a fault and then some.

One of the challenges that Alice found difficult was when she realized she was not in charge. I teased her about this often. Some of the highlights in her life were the parties she helped organize—Super Bowl, St. Patrick's Day—and of course the Christmas Village, trains and all, that entertained many.

Alice excelled in her leadership qualities both as a teacher and principal. Yes, I will miss Alice. She left her mark on my heart 70 years ago; it will always be there. Enjoy and celebrate your eternal life my friend!

Kathleen Conway, BVM

The day after Kathy Bacon died, I flew to Las Vegas to be with Alice for the week of Kathy's wake and funeral. It was a special time for me. I hadn't known Alice previously and we got to know each other during that sad week together.

Alice began making plans to move to Mount Carmel. She thought she'd need about a month to pack up and to say goodbye to her many friends in Las Vegas. She was unable to care for herself because of her disabled hands, so teams of BVM volunteers flew there to be with her, helping her pack and prepare her to move to Mount Carmel.

Audrey Juergens and I were "on" the last week. Everything was pretty much packed or given away. The only things still on Alice's list were her two dogs, Bitsy and Tiny, both Scottish terriers. Tiny was older and quiet. Bitsy just the opposite. He barked at everything; I mean everything! Alice had negotiated with a friend to adopt the two dogs but he wanted to come to the house to check the dogs out. Alice was worried that the friend would not accept Bitsy because of his hyperactivity so we decided to give him some Benadryl to calm him down before the man came. While Alice held the yipping dog, Audrey gave Tiny a children's dose of the drug and I guarded the gate so Bitsy couldn't escape. When one dose didn't seem to work she gave him another dose. With that second dose he

became so lethargic that we thought we might have killed him. He was a bit revived by the time the friend came, but still not his normal, annoying self (sorry, Alice) and the friend said he would be glad to take both dogs. We all were very relieved, though Alice missed those dogs terribly every day during her time at Mount Carmel.

Ann Lorenz, development and marketing director, Opening Doors, Dubuque, Iowa

I would like to share a memory of the incomparable Sister Alice Dunphy. I was saddened to hear of Sister Alice's passing. I have a fond memory of meeting her a few years ago. I came bearing a gift that she won for selling the most raffle tickets for Opening Doors' annual "Attitude of Gratitude." She had been our top raffle salesperson, selling over 400 raffle tickets and raising \$2,000 for us during a two-year period. In 2017, one of your security guards who had purchased a ticket from Alice was one of the lucky winners. During our visit, we spent several lovely hours together talking about her life adventures.

I will always remember the sparkle in her eyes as she spoke of the students that she had mentored and the famous people that she had met while fundraising for schools in California. Her legacy lives on through the great work that she did!

Sister Lorraine Brennan, OP

Alice! What a wonderful, wise, caring, energetic, and happy person she was. I am Lorraine Brennan, an Adrian Dominican Sister, who was honored to work for Alice in Palm Springs, Calif., for many years. Alice demanded excellence in class work and other dealings with school activities.

Alice had many gifts, but among her gifts, besides being a first-class principal, was that of fundraising. She excelled in this capacity. Alice would not consider any project that would not yield at least \$20,000 for the school. Her projects were fun and well-attended. Our pastor said he did not know of any parish that asked the school to help with finances and received it. It usually was the other way around.

Alice kept strict accounts of payable out from the school to the parish. When the pastor came down with pancreatic cancer, Alice tore up the IOUs. She knew there was no way the parish could cover the expenses. Alice's health was declining and she needed a break from her duties as principal. From this point on the school declined from its prominence as one of the top schools of the area.

Alice was not all work; we had many good times. We had vacations at Lake Arrow Head, San Diego, Las Vegas, Arizona at her sister Virginia's house, and other fun times. Our golf fundraisers were like vacations, also. I loved the time Alice came to Adrian, Mich. What great memories!

God bless you, Alice. Along with your wonderful family, I know God was waiting for you too. Alice passed away April 29, the feast of St Catherine of Sienna, a famous Dominican saint. I think some Dominicanism rubbed off onto Alice. Love and blessing on Alice and the Dunphy family.

Marina Genera

You will be missed, Sister Alice. You were a joy to be around at St. Theresa and at bingo. Please say hello to Sister Kathryn and my Aunt Mary for me. May you rest in peace and be with the angels.

Judy Arthur

God be with you, Sister Alice. Rest in peace and may the angels surround you. I loved the "old" days at St. Theresa. God Bless.

Linda McBride, alum

Fond memories of spending time with Sister Alice at Our Lady of Lourdes in Chicago; Lincoln Neb.; Missoula, Mont.; Palm Springs, Calif., with tour of Bob Hope's house; and lastly Mount Carmel. I will miss her smile and quick wit. Rest in peace.