



## **Sharing of Memories of Mary Lou Anglin, BVM (Lou)**

Mary Frances Clarke Chapel, June 3, 2022

### **Sister Kathryn Lawlor, BVM**

Some years ago (2017), Sister Mary Alice Chineworth, former superior of the Oblate Sister of Providence in Baltimore, died. In both the obituaries in the *Baltimore Sun* and in the Baltimore diocesan paper, it stated that the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary refused Alice entrance into their congregation. I brought those obituaries to Lou. As we talked about it, we remembered an author whose ancestors had owned slaves. This author had written, "I am not accountable, but I am responsible." Lou went to our grant committees, to the congregational board of directors, and she obtained an endowed scholarship in every diocese where we taught for a school in that diocese. Lou was responsible.

### **Sister Paulette Skiba, BVM**

I was with Lou when Lou got the diagnosis. This is how her reflection went after the doctor left the room. "I've lived a good life. I've looked forward to so many things like opening The Spiders." But then she said, "But I believe everything our faith teaches about what comes next." Two of the readings today were used for her final vows: Micah and "Consider the Lilies of the Field." I went back and reread my homily for that day. On that day, Lou had said, "This is easy for me, making final commitment, because I know I am held in love. I'm held in the love of God." I don't want to say that dying was easy for Lou. But she did know that she was held in love, that she would fall into the arms of a loving God, that she was supported by the love of family and community. In that sense, there was something easy about it that she could accept it because love goes on.

### **Maureen "Mo" McGrain, Former BVM**

I was in the community from 1989 until 1994 and had the pleasure of spending many, many fun times with Lou. As I was reflecting on whether I should say something, I thought, I want to share the fact that I credit Lou with saving my life not once, but twice. The first time I wasn't even in the community yet. We were out in Santa Clara for the 1989 Senate. We were staying in the dorms. Several of the younger sisters had been out having a few adult beverages that evening. I was getting ready for bed in the communal bathroom. I was washing my face when the mirror started to move. I got a little bit closer because I had my contacts out. I thought, my gosh, I did not drink that much. Then I heard this horrific rumbling. I thought, oh my gosh! Then the room started to move. I left the bathroom and starting sprinting down the hall. I, a Midwesterner, didn't know what was going on. I was part way down the hall when this big paw swooped out from the door jamb and grabbed me and pulled me in the doorway with her and Therese Fassnacht. It was Lou. I was saved from my first encounter with an earthquake. I remember just shuttering. That was the first time that Lou saved my life.

The second time was when the younger sisters vacationed up at The Spiders. It was the kickoff of my canonical year. We were all up there having a good time. There was an old boat there, compliments of a local doctor. I was jumping out of the boat and dislocated my shoulder and was in the water. I was in an awful lot of pain and thoroughly convinced that if the pain didn't kill me, I was going to drown in about a foot of water. Lou swooped in and saved the day. It didn't happen that quickly for sure. I think I had said every swear word that I didn't even know. It was Lou and her leverage that was able to get me up and into the car as I was whimpering and swearing all in the same breath. She road to the hospital with me. We were in this little Nova and Francilla Kirby was driving

us. The two of us, very tall women, Lou taller than I, were folded into this back seat. She was holding me so I won't jostle in pain.

Lou, thank you for saving my life twice. Let's dance until we get to meet Lou again.

**Ellen (Sterk) Siegert, Friend**

As many of you may know, Lou and I were roommates while students at Clarke College. Every summer for the past several years, a group of us, fondly known as the Mobies, gather together at a lake house in Wisconsin for several days of rest, relaxation, and some shenanigans. There's an exchange of gifts, usually whale-themed, a toast to our mothers, the sharing of old memories, and the creating of new. One gift we all look forward to each year was the gift from Lou. Lou gives us a collection of her favorite poems that have touched her heart the previous year. In keeping with that lovely gift, I would like to share a poem by Cathleen Falsani on behalf of the Mobies.

I keep thinking:  
Now she knows—  
All the secrets.  
All the answers.  
Every mystery.  
Now she sees—  
The whole picture.  
The entire story.  
Face to face.  
Now she is —  
Whole.  
Remarkable.  
Perfect.  
All of who she ever was.  
All of who she is.  
In the More.  
In memory.  
Now.

Thank you, Sacred Eagle, for being part of our pod. We cherish you, love you, and are going to miss you.

**Polly (McGinn) Matejovsky, Friend**

I am another Moby. I think it is funny that Ellen and I picked the same word. I was going to say that Lou was the reasonable one in our Moby group, but there were some shenanigans, especially at Clarke. While Lou could be mischievous, almost everyone did know and understand what a kind, caring, spiritual and compassionate woman she was. She deeply loved her community, her family, and her Moby pod. When we were hurting or confused, her words of wisdom brought us comfort. Her strength was an inspiration to us. Her smile brought us joy. She celebrated our triumphs and milestones with us. We were fortunate to have watched Lou on the path to become the leader she was. We are very blessed to have been part of Lou's life and to have had her in ours. Lou, the Sacred Eagle, will be in our hearts forever.

**Sister Patricia Bombard, BVM**

My first memory of meeting Lou was in 1984. It was summer and we were part of a group driving down to Williamsburg, Kentucky, to spend a month running a Bible school. I remember Lou and I were sitting in the back seat of this small car. I think I was the fortunate one. I think Ann DeNicolo was driving and I was sitting behind Ann. If you know Ann, you know I had more leg room than Lou. Lou didn't talk a lot. We are sitting in the back seat and Lou is doing one of her favorite things – reading a book. Hours go by as we are driving. The next thing I

know, Lou rolls down the window, leans back in that casual way she had, and sticks one of her legs out of the window. I thought, "I think I could like this woman."

As it has been said, Lou was a deeply spiritual person. As I thought about that the other day, I was trying to figure out a way of talking about that. What came to me was a story of Teresa of Ávila. According to the legend, Teresa was the leader of a community of sisters. They were feasting on a meal that had been provided by a donor. One of the sisters complained that they were having too good of a time. Teresa's response was, "When you pray, pray. When you partridge, partridge." For me, that is a good image for Lou's way of living her spiritual life. Lou and I talked on the phone the day she received her diagnosis. She also said to me, "I've lived a good life." I think she was at peace with how that life unfolded. I think that it's appropriate that we do pray. Many people prayed for Lou in the weeks during the weeks that she was ill. I think it is also placed upon us to partridge for Lou. I look forward to a continued celebration of the life of Lou Anglin as we are together today.

#### **Sister Luann Brown, BVM**

I've known Lou since I entered the community. We were close in formation and in the March Madness group. There are so many memories that I can't even start to talk about them - Homecoming on New Year's Eve at midnight in the Mount Carmel Cemetery, the times at The Spiders, just so many memories. What has been floating through my mind these last couple of days is that she, for several years in a row, brought a group down to Ecuador. She didn't speak the language but her ability to connect with all kinds of people on all kinds of levels whether its verbal or nonverbal was just amazing to me. Many people talked about her sense of humor. She had to ability to see the incongruence of life that is unmatched. Her one-liners were some of the bests I've heard in my life. We did a one-day trip between Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador. One is in the mountains, and one is one the coast. On a bus, it would be about nine hours; it's an hour flight. We were returning to Quito from Guayaquil. A cargo plane had crashed on the one runway in Quito. They announced in Spanish over the intercom that they had to turn the plane around and back to Guayaquil. She was sitting next to me, so I translated that for her. She looked at me and said, "I've never banged a U-ey in a plane before. That's just one example of her one-liners. What I really remember about Lou was her ability to reach out and connect to anybody who was in her path, even though she was, as people have said, a quiet person. Quiet, but present.

#### **Sister Elizabeth Avalos, BVM**

Lou and I went on one of the first service trips to Quito and Guayaquil. When we were visiting the barrio in Quito, I was so touched by the poverty that I went outside and started crying. Lou walked out to see where I was. I told her how saddened I was to again witness the conditions that people were living in. I cried because of our complicity in creating the conditions. Lou stood next to me and by her presence comforted me.

There were also the times when I would come to Dubuque for Community Board meetings, and we would find an opportunity to go out to dinner. Lou would take me to some of her favorite Dubuque restaurants like the West Dubuque Tap. We would top off the meal with ice cream at Beecher's and sometimes at Betty Jane's. I had planned on taking my ice cream maker to the Terrace Apartments so we could have a taste test and see if my ice cream beats out Beecher's. But now we will have to wait for another time and another place to compare the ice creams.

#### **Sister Marilyn Wilson, BVM**

It is difficult to capture my heartfelt thoughts and feelings for dear Lou. From the time she entered in 1985 when I was part of the Formation Team until now, we have shared many spiritual, fun-loving, emotional, and intellectual endeavors. We shared Homecoming, vow ceremonies, Jubilees, and Spiders adventures. We worked on committees and assemblies. We relished the ice cream escapades. It was always a joy to connect, to celebrate, to shed tears over mutual friends who left us too soon. We rejoiced in one another and community. Despite distances there was always a loving bond. In looking over my photos perhaps some of the most treasured ones was our collaboration on the reflection we gave at the liturgy for her 25th Jubilee and my 50th. There is much

more that might be said, but we now connect everyday across the thin line of spirit world and our very human, suffering world. With much love, Marilyn.

#### **Sister Lynn Winsor, BVM**

Lou was a strong woman of faith, who loved, who forgave, who walked away, let go, tried again, and persevered no matter what life threw at her. She will be missed by so many.

#### **Sister Agnes "Dee Dee". Keena, BVM**

As I sit here in my house, I am remembering the day Lou and Eily [Eileen Fuchs] and Audrey [Juergens] helped me move. Lots of laughter! That was 22 years ago. I have many memories of Lou in St. Louis. Lou, Eily and Audrey hosted the best Super Bowl Parties. Lou knew how to celebrate and have fun! Lou is someone who lived the words of the prophet Micah. Lou acted justly, loved tenderly, and walked humbly with her God. I told Lou, several times, that her persona is how I imagined Mother Clarke. Mother Clarke led by example, as did Lou. She went on "steady and quiet" knowing that "all will come right again."

#### **Sister Irene Lukefahr, BVM**

Several months ago, I was gifted with a dream about Lou, which some friends have called it a transformative or resurrection dream. In the dream, Lou was so happy, healthy, and full of life. She was holding up one of the hundreds of banners Sister Teresian [Verwiel] had made years ago, that read, "I have called you by name. You are mine." Although I did not recognize the name of the deceased BVM, Lou seemed to have met her somewhere along the way. At the end of the dream, I heard Lou say, "I want you all to wear butterflies!"

This past Sunday, I did not know how I was going to be able to read Lou's name in the necrology. I asked her to help me. Then I glanced up at the bouquet of flowers on the ambo. There was also a butterfly among the flowers! I felt Lou's presence giving me strength.

When God has finally finished wiping the tears from our eyes, I trust that we will all be rejoicing in Lou's new and abundant life. When I see butterflies, I will think of her and when we sing the "Alleluia," I will focus on the LOU in each AlleLOUia.

Go with God, Lou. Thank you for your gentle presence, your courage, and your loving service to us. We will miss you but trust that you will live in our hearts.

#### **Mary Lee (Hackman) Roth**

It was a pleasure to play softball at Clarke College with Lou. She played an awesome first base and led the team with fun, spunk, and spirit. She was an impactful leader throughout her life.

#### **Beth (Mueller) Wieters**

Lou's nickname was appropriately Sweet Lou on the basketball team. She gave me the nickname Betty Lou, which is the only way I am addressed by Clarkies even today. Great memories of a great woman. God speed, Lou.

#### **Bob Anglin and Diane Forner, Brother and Sister**

Through Lou, our family has had the privilege of getting to know the Sisters of Charity of our Blessed Virgin Mary. These loving and generous women have supported us through good times and bad for forty years. We will be forever grateful. Through the sisters, we got to know the people in the BCLS (BVM Community Life Services) group and the rest of the staff at Mount Carmel. We are thankful for the kindness they have shown us.

## **Other comments from social media:**

### **Robert Denstedt**

Condolences from the Denstedt family on the passing of Sister Mary Lou Anglin. Sister Lou taught our daughter at Nerinx Hall in Saint Louis and was a wonderful, inspirational educator. Sister Lou, you have proclaimed the Gospel well in your life of service to the people of the Church of Saint Louis and many other missions on which you served. The prayers of the Church often express longing for the coming of our God, stirring that same longing within each of us. Sister Lou, you have heard the call by God to come home, and the desire of your heart will soon be satisfied. You will know God's gracious smile as you meet face to face. Our family is confident that a loving God waits to welcome you into the fullness of love reserved for all eternity. Go forth in peace. Thanks be to God!

### **Rick Kennedy**

So sorry to hear of Sister Lou's passing. Sister Lou was my daughter's home room and religion teacher at Nerinx Hall, freshman year. Sister Lou was also her basketball coach on the freshman team. Sister Lou was a terrific teacher, coach, and mentor for my daughter and friend to me and my wife. Sister Lou will truly be missed.

### **Marilyn Lorenz**

Lou was a wonderful friend and colleague at Nerinx. So many memories. We are all enriched by her walk with us.

### **Carol Winkler**

Such a listener, a well of calm attention.

### **Sister Carla Popes, PBVM**

I am sorry for your loss of Sister Lou Anglin. I enjoyed working with both Lou and Kathy Carr in Vocation Ministry. We traveled many miles together visiting Iowa Colleges, speaking at Masses and participating with Busy Persons Retreat. We worked well together and enjoyed all the adventures wherever the Spirit led us. I remember well Lou's gentle spirit that welcomed all she met. May she now rest in peace. -

### **Maureen "Mo" McGrain, Former BVM**

So saddened by this loss of such a fun, beautiful, faith-filled friend. I have no doubt that Lou is whole again in the Love of her God, family and BVM sisters. Praying for all of us who grieve Lou's transformation especially her mom, the Loggia community and the BVM March Madness group. Pray for us, Lou.

### **Gail Epping Overholt**

Lou was so fun to know. Her spirit will live on in so many of those who loved her. While I only met her a few times, she made such a beautiful impression on us. I loved her tenacity at cards, something I imagine carried over in many facets of her life. A wonderful soul who I know is in a better place and will be looking down upon all who loved her hoping for them to carry on in peace.

### **Andy Schroeder, BVM Associate**

Lou was a truly amazing woman. Her smile and positive attitude always lit up the room.

### **Mary Alice Walsh**

The halls of Mt. Carmel Bluffs are dimmer tonight as a shining light left us all. Lou was an amazing woman of empathy, faith, kindness, and love. May she find eternal rest. And maybe enjoy a pickup basketball game once in a while, too.

### **Meredith Dean**

Rest in Power! You lived a life of purpose and mission. I was blessed to have been guided by you during my formative high school years and for much of my adult journey. Prayers for all of Lou's birth and BVM family.

**Michelle Chitwood Horton**

I am grateful to Lou for her open and welcoming spirit and all she taught me about vocation work. She is with our living God.