



Sharing of Memories of Margaret “Peggy” Devereux, BVM Williamette

Mary Frances Clarke Chapel, July 7, 2022

Monica Devereux, Neice

Aunt Peggy was the nicest most patient teacher! When she worked in San Francisco after her own teaching day had finished, Aunt Peggy would stop by our house to help my Eleanor learn to read. Eleanor is dyslexic so this was no easy task! With patience and love the two of them would work in the living room, heads together, deciphering those words. Thank you, Aunt Peggy. You are loved and missed.

Aimee, Desta and Mimi Devereux, Nieces

Aunt Peggy was the best! She was so genuinely concerned and interested and miraculously gifted in prayer that every big decision in life required a call to Aunt Peggy! Her advice was so very good and appreciated. I personally confided to Aunt Peggy about my adoption plans for Desta and Mimi and she was so encouraging, loving and supportive that I thought, “Surely God's hand was here.”

But besides prayer and love, Aunt Peggy was a super great time! We laughed and laughed with her over her funny stories and mishaps! She came to visit my mom and dad's house every summer (usually with a carload of nuns). We would swim, eat, and laugh all day long! Her special Christmas time visit was filled with action too. Even in the midst of the action, we had her undivided attention and enjoyed every minute!

Her gifts as a teacher were well used among the nieces and nephews. She was the go-to for reading help and was an incredible teacher! We loved going to mass at Wright Hall, visiting the Oak Park house, having her to our house and driving up to Dubuque for a visit on the way to Loras college summer camp. We had many adventures with Aunt Peggy! We will always miss Aunt Peggy but can feel the strength of her prayers even now. Aunt Peggy please continue to pray for us, and we will see you again!

Sister Anne Kendall, BVM

When I think of Peggy Devereux, I think of four of her priorities – faith, family, friends, and fun. Peggy cherished her Catholic faith and BVM heritage, but she was open to change and differing opinions, or options others had made. Often, she spoke of her education in a BVM school (Our Lady of Angels Academy, Clinton, Iowa), and of her relative Vera Clark, BVM.

Family was extremely important to Peggy. I felt I knew her relatives, because of what she would often share with me. I may not know family members by how you look, but I would be able to identify who you are because of Peggy's descriptions. She was so excited as you made your way through the vicissitudes of life and the difficulties you might be enduring. How you were doing in school or in a job were important to her. She was vitally interested in the joys and sorrows in each one's life.

Peggy seemed to make friends easily. When she was a member of St. Monica's School in San Francisco and I was the principal, I observed and noted that she was very well loved by other faculty members. She added spirit and life to our daily ministry to the children and the other teachers in the school. Her students in the special reading class thrived with her help. She was respected by the junior high students who received instruction in Religion from her. She was always willing to help with any task which needed to be done in the school. She was especially

helpful to me when she helped me make copies of all financial accounts when we were in the midst of an embezzlement case involving a former member of the school.

Lastly, Peggy was a person who liked to have fun, whether it was a party or attending a Giants game, courtesy of her niece's husband Chris Columbus. Peggy spoke of attending the Oscar awards when Chris was nominated for his movie *Home Alone*. Peggy was someone who knew how to enjoy herself and interacted positively with whatever activity was taking place. Her spirit will be greatly missed.

Sharon Cecil Carter, Former Student, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Chattanooga, Tenn.

I saw the announcement that Sister Mary Margaret had died. She was a wonderful lady to say the least. Mine is not a huge story, but a great example of how much she cared for all of us! I remember that in the winter my daddy didn't like me walking to school so he made sure to take me when it was windy and cold. Unfortunately, that put me getting to school way earlier than I needed to be. Sister somehow knew – I have no clue how – but she always came and opened the door to the school, let me in, and allowed me to sit in the warm building until school started.

Curt "Bucky" Dearing, Class of 1980, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Chattanooga, Tenn.

A wonderful person and awesome principal! When I was in kindergarten, classes ended at noon. I had four siblings at the school and my mom was in nursing school. Sister agreed to watch me in her office every day until school was out. What a loving and charitable thing to do. May she rest in peace.

Sister Marge Sannasardo, BVM

I lived with Peggy in Oak Park, Ill., for several years. I met her when I was a regional and she was the administrator at Wright Hall. Anytime we encountered each other, I just remember how balanced and sensible and right on target she was with any conversation we had. It was just a pleasure to work with her. Living with her was another wonderful experience. Like Anne Kendell said, family, fun, and friendship were so important as well as community. She loved her family and she loved her community. Her pleasant loving, gentle tender smile will remain in my heart. We had a lot of good times with her and I have wonderful, fond memories. Peggy, keep smiling.

Margaret Lonzo, Niece, Daughter of Marilyn Lawlor

I spent the night in a hotel yesterday. My mom proceeded to lose her nail polish, was charged twice for the room, and it was very cold and we couldn't control the air conditioning. So we had a bit of a battle in the hotel yesterday. So my mom said a prayer to Aunt Peggy – this is the beginning of beatification - that the room would be refunded, that she would have a good night's sleep before the funeral, and that she would find her nail polish. All three of them happened! Mom had searched that room up and down the night before for the nail polish. She woke up and it was sitting on the top of her makeup bag. Thank you, Aunt Peggy!

Sister Bernadette McManigal, BVM

When I think of Peggy, as I think many of you do, I think of her smile. I remember in these last days, Peggy didn't always recognize who someone was, but she smiled and greeted me. It was so wonderful. Then, as I turned to leave, she turned to someone and said, "Who was that? I know that Peggy would smile at all of us. So, Peggy, we thank you.

Doyle Devereux, Nephew, Son of William Clark Devereux

It was in 1976 when Peggy was down in Chattanooga. There are seven of us in the family. She said, "Come on down." We went down for Thanksgiving. Pa had a 1976 Estate Wagon. Ma and Pa put all the seats down. There were seven sleeping bags in back. We left around three or four in the morning. We drove down to Chattanooga to the school. We set up in the library there and lived there for the next three days. We had the most wonderful time. I remember that like it was yesterday. We played football on the football field. We ate in the cafeteria. We lived in the library. Aunt Peggy was so welcoming and laughing. I remember this from being eight years old and

ten years old. I remember I was with Peggy in the back seat, and we were talking about God. It's something I have never forgotten. It's a timeless memory. She was such a great communicator with children. I was one of the younger nephews she had. My sisters came down on Tuesday right before Aunt Peggy went to heaven. They met with her, but I was unavailable, so I called Peggy the day before she passed. Sister Mary Anne Bradish had been in contact with me so I had her phone number and I called that. She said, "Doyle, I'm so glad you called. Do you want to talk to your aunt?" I said, "I really do. I just want to tell her how much I love her." She said, "Well, she is really agitated right now, but I'll put the phone to her ear." I said, "That would be great." She put the phone to Aunt Peggy's ear, and I heard her say in the background, "OK, Doyle, speak." I said, "Aunt Peggy, we love you so much. Dominic says hello. Meredith says hello. We are with you in spirit. I just love you so much." Sister Mary Anne took the phone back and said, "Oh my, Doyle, you put her to sleep. That's wonderful!" I said, "Aunt Peggy, I do that to all the girls!"

Marilyn Lawlor, Sister

One thing about Peg, she loved ice cream. The day before she didn't speak any longer, I was in California, and I called her. I said, "Remember the time it was so hot, and we had ice cream cones. It was just dripping all over us and we were laughing so hard. We were in the front seat. My son who was only three in the back. He said, 'Stop!' I never thought I would see that day when the two of us laughed so hard." She said, "Delevan." That was where it was. I said, "That's right. Can you say one more thing? I'm going to say, 'I love you.' Can you say, 'I love you' too?" She gave a little chuckle and said, "I love you, too." That was it. That's my favorite memory.

Mary Pat Devereux, Niece, Daughter of William Clarke Devereux

I am Clarke Devereux's oldest daughter and Aunt Peggy's oldest niece. We have been very close for over 60 years. Aunt Peggy gave me books from her school when I was in kindergarten to teach me how to read. That was one of the greatest gifts that I have ever received. The other great gifts were Aunt Peggy's company and her prayers throughout the years. When I walked into the chapel and saw the prayer board, I immediately thought, How many times have my children been on that board through the kindness of Aunt Peggy. How much fun we had with her through the years! We very much enjoyed visiting at Hooker Lake in Salem, Wis. When she was up for the summer, we would stop by on our way to Lake Geneva. That was always fun.

I would like to thank her for being with us on my daughter, Angela's journey. My daughter died thirteen years ago on Wednesday. Aunt Peggy was a constant visitor. Her prayerful support meant so much to us. Now I know that Angela has another companion in heaven. That's a great comfort to me.

Sister Janice Pertle, BVM

I had the wonderful opportunity to be not only Peggy's co-administrator at Wright Hall, but a dear friend. Before becoming Wright Hall administrator, Peggy taught second grade at Mary Frances Warde ES. She thoroughly enjoyed being back in her first love – being with young children.

One of the things I admired about Peggy was her desire to try to do the best. She was a careful listener and encouraged as much independence as possible in a large group setting. No task was beneath her dignity. She ran a dishwasher cheerfully when an employee went home because of illness. The Rindler Study led the Wright Hall and Dubuque administrative teams in looking at staffing and budgeting. The teams rode back and forth on the Rindler four-seater corporate jet. Quite an adventure!

The bedroom carpets were replaced during her term. Each sister selected the style and color for her room, which worked out beautifully, except at the end of the day we need to pick up all the remnants. We went from room to room gathering them to save just in case they were needed. We got them on the elevator and then couldn't decide where to put them! During the chapel renovation, she worked carefully with the architect in the design, the selection of furnishings, etc. She went with small groups of residents to see design options and furnishings. Ultimately, the liturgical center of the chapel moved from the south end to the east making it easier for sisters to move more comfortably to receive Eucharist.

Hospitality was important to Peggy. She created a welcoming atmosphere for meals and liturgy. She was compassionate to the sick. She promoted good employee relationships and provided many opportunities for mini outings.

Colleen Lawlor, Niece, Daughter of Marilyn Lawlor

We had the good fortune growing up because my grandpa, Aunt Peggy's dad, lived with our family and she would come home to our home. We got lots of great memories through the years. The two of them – my grandpa and my Aunt Peggy – were a pair. When they were on the loose as our surrogate parents, trouble ensued. Melinda will remember that she and I went down to Florida when we were 15 and 14. The two of them let us put on baby oil and go lie out in the sunshine. By the next morning, we practically had third degree burns. Still, we went to church. We shuffled in and I couldn't even open my mouth for Communion. The priest stuffed the Holy Communion in. I remember that Aunt Peggy then bought me a hat. There was this "What are we going to tell Marilyn?" They got us home and Melinda and I survived. The fun part was meeting the rest of the sisters as well. At our grandpa's cottage in Delevan, Calif., we would see Sister Agneselle (Helen Sherrard), Sister Genivieve Marie (Freund), and so many other nice sisters through the years. We had so many, fun, happy, family memories with just laughs after laughs. It was a great time.

Aunt Peggy relocated to San Francisco where my parents lived. When I would go to visit my mom and dad, I would see Aunt Peggy. I remember one time there was a retreat in Berkley. It was the wildest get together. I thought it would be somber, just a bunch of religious men and women. It was like Woodstock! It was laughs and wine and cheese. God was definitely there. I believe I had three children at the time and thought, "What did I miss that I didn't consider this as an option?" It was really fun. We were blessed not only by Aunt Peggy's fun, but by the fun of all the people who were in her life.

To the sisters, nurses, and caregivers, my thanks to you for being her family. I feel badly that I hadn't seen her for over two years since the pandemic started. I am a nurse myself, so I know what this pandemic has been. I wish I did better. I know that she is in the religion business. I know that she forgives me. I am very grateful to you all for being her family when her family couldn't be here. She really loved her life. She just had so much fun. You are part of making that happen for her. Thank you!

Sister Helen Jeanne Hurley, BVM

Peggy and I were partners in the novitiate because they would line us up in size. Peggy and I were the third and fourth shortest. She was community number 3360, and I was 3361. We got along very well. We were assigned as novices to the dish room. One day Peggy was carrying a huge display of plates. I was too, but we were going in different directions. Guess what. We bumped into each other, and the plates went all over the dish room. We were told in the novitiate that if you ever broke anything, you had to bring the pieces to the novice mistress. That was a little hard to do. Peggy, in her usual way, was shaking and I in my usual way was very casual. We got up to the novice mistress. The tears were already coming down Peggy's face, while I stood there in my casual manner. When we told SM Majella what we did, she said that it was too big of a thing to give a punishment. We didn't receive any punishment for breaking all those dishes. We went up to the chapel. Peggy sat down with tears rolling down her face. I sat next to her and gave her a big poke. "It's OK, Peggy. We don't have to worry. We didn't get punished at all." Every time we used plates and we were short, I would remind Peggy it was because we broke so many.

Sister Genevieve Freund, BVM

When I was assigned to Chattanooga, Tenn., Sister Peggy Devereux was the principal of the school. I was the music teacher. Peggy was "all to all" to the sisters in the convent. She was interested in each sister and her family. In the school, Peggy was supportive of the staff and she was easy to work with.

Peggy and I became friends during those years in Chattanooga. When Peggy's dad came to visit, I was Peggy's companion. Her dad took the two of us for a vacation at the family cabin at Lake Delevan.

Peggy and I made retreats together at Warrentville. We maintained our friendship over the years even when we went to other assignments. When Peggy moved to the Arbor unit, her room was right next to mine. When Peggy had a fall, she moved to gables to get the care she needed. I visited with Peggy usually every weekend and talked to her on the phone.

Joseph Devereux, Brother

Peggy was the oldest of us four children. She was our big sister. She was an eighth grader when she took me to first grade and made sure I was safe and comfortable. After graduation from grade school, she attended Our Lady of Angels Academy in Clinton, Iowa, because our cousin SM Vera Clark, BVM as well as another cousin were there. In her senior year, Peggy was made the most outstanding athlete of the school excelling in tennis, basketball, and volleyball. How proud we were of her. Who would have known that the one who dropped all the plates was an athlete!

That summer was decision time. College or whatever. Whatever turned out to be her best choice. She wanted to become a nun, and not just any nun, but a Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Peggy asked each one of us individually if it was alright for her to become a nun. If a vote had been taken, the result would have been four for, zero against, and one abstention. That abstention being my mother who obviously was conflicted by the great abundance of motherly love she showered upon all of us. It didn't take long and she was on board. Our father, proud as a peacock.

Peggy entered on September 8, the Blessed Mother's birthday, and my sister Marilyn's birthday. She was professed on March 19, the Feast Day of St. Joseph, my patron saint. Do think God had any part of this planned?

Peggy was assigned to Holy Cross on the southside of Chicago. She asked if I and my brothers -in-law could paint the old convent. We agreed not knowing what a large task it was. It was there she came upon my brother-in-law waiting for me and another to finish a room. She asked him why he was not working and got the reply, "I'm finished, just waiting for them." Peggy replied, "You would think the Spirit would move you to go start another room." Thus started her authoritative career through principalship at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Chattanooga to director of Wright Hall in Chicago and many stops in between.

Peggy came to Mount Carmel on her own turns. One day at a holiday dinner, she announced, "I'm moving to Mount Carmel." We were surprised, but very pleased. A couple of weeks, amid the super fine care she was receiving, I asked her if she was taking her meds and following her nurse's instructions. She replied very strongly, "Joe, you know I took the vow of obedience." End of discussion.

On behalf of Peggy's late brother Clark, my sister Marilyn, myself, her nineteen nieces and nephews, forty-seven grandnieces and four great-grandnieces, we would like to thank you for being such a good, supportive friend to Peggy, especially Sister Mary Anne Bradish for keeping us in the loop during this past year. We may have lost a sister, but God gave us another sister. When Peggy and I would end our conversation, I would always say, "Love you, Peg." And she would reply, "Love you, too, Joe" I'm going to miss that.

Sister Irene Lukefahr, BVM

Peggy and I had a few things in common. We shared the same birthday on November 3 with only 15 years apart. We were both elementary school principals in Tennessee – Peggy at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Chattanooga and I at Father Bertrand in Memphis. Our paths crossed when we were both ministered at St. Joseph Church in Dalton, Georgia, located about 30 miles south of Chattanooga. Many years ago, Peggy received a phone call from a parishioner in Dalton, asking if the BVM sisters might be willing to come to provide religious education to the children on Sunday mornings. Apparently, the Notre Dame Sisters from Chattanooga had been doing this for some

time, but were no longer able to continue in this ministry. As Peggy told the story, she went into the kitchen to ask if any of the sisters would be willing to respond to this request. Peggy expressed interest and Sister John Phillip Bassford also agreed. Within minutes Peggy shared the good news and became a gift to the children and parents in Dalton. I don't know how many years John Phillip went with Peggy. I do know that by the time I arrived in Dalton as the new DRE, Peggy had driven the 30 miles from Chattanooga each Sunday for over 15 years. During my five years in Dalton, Peggy and I enjoyed meeting each other each Sunday morning, as well as spending lots of fun times with all the sisters in Chattanooga.

Peggy was such an easy person to like and a treasure to love. Go in peace Peggy and spread your kindness, humor, and love with all those you meet along the way.

Aurelie Steve

When I was a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Dalton Georgia, I had the privilege of meeting Sister Margaret. Because of my teaching background, I was assigned the ministry called CCD at that time. This was the responsibility of procuring teachers for our Catholic grade school children. I tried to enlist volunteers but found that many people did not feel comfortable teaching nor had the Catholic background.

The nearest parish to St. Joseph was Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Chattanooga, Tenn. They had a Catholic School and I turned for help to the BVM Sisters. I thought that if I explained the problem that they might be able to give me some guidance. When I called them, Sister Margaret answered the phone. I told her of my need, not expecting such rapid response. She very sweetly asked one of the other sisters if she would be willing to drive with her to Dalton every Sunday and teach the First Communion classes. This would be about a half an hour trip each way. What a blessing that was! They continued to teach for fifteen years. What compassion, selflessness, and love she showed to all our children. They laid the foundation for their Catholic education.

When it was time for my two grandchildren Vail and Charlie, to attend school, my daughter chose to make the trip back and forth to OLPH every day. We are grateful for the legacy of Sister Margaret and all the BVMs who were such great teachers and role models for our children.

Sister Mary Healey, BVM

While I was treasurer at Wright Hall those many years, Peggy was administrator for three years. I'm trying to think of an exciting incident then. I do remember vividly her golden jubilee celebration some years earlier. Instead of a party, she had a picnic at a park on the south side. Her family rented a big pavilion. She invited all BVMs, other friends, and her whole clan including many children of all ages from those in buggies up. I think a few dogs, too, but they were leashed. I've no idea how many humans were there. The little ones and some oldsters left early. I stayed till twilight. The day was beautiful, the grass green, the food tasty, the company gregarious—and some musical. It was a grand day!

Sister Joanne "Josie" Lucid, BVM

I have a little story that made some of us laugh with Peggy. Peggy was about to leave the Caritas dining room and somehow, she tripped and fell into the lap of Kitty Lawlor. Peggy had walked the length of the dining room and suddenly fell right into the lap, she looked up into Kitty's face and said, "Oh, my John Laurian what are doing?" All of us laughed and Kitty was shocked. Peggy was smiling and laughing which made all of us laugh together. I tell this to you because I saw the most beautiful Peggy's smile, laugh and eyes twinkle. All of us loved Peggy so much. She was so kind, interested and able to make us laugh well.

Sister Terese Shinnors, BVM

I taught two of Peggy's nieces, Melinda, and Mary Ellen Lawlor, at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School in Milwaukee. Every time I saw Peggy, she would update me on what was going on in her nieces' lives. It was so clear that she dearly loved these women and was so proud of them. They are lucky to have had such a loving aunt in their lives.

Sister Victoria Smurlo, BVM

Peggy hired me sight-unseen to be Activity Director at Wright Hall in 1993. Together with Jan Pertle, we collaborated comfortably as a team with significant events going on under Peggy's final year of administration. For example, we three were a new team; the chapel was being rebuilt, our newly hired multi-cultural staff were eagerly learning the complexity of communicating in English.

Peggy was steady throughout her last year. I remember her as easy going, consistently supportive, and certainly a woman of compassion with common sense in addressing the needs and issues of our retired Sisters.

One of my most fun activities at Wright Hall was the "Fitter Sitters" exercise group. Peggy loved to tell the story of secretly watching to see how I could get the group to stand and direct them to get their posterior extremities (I may have said "butts") to move in a circle. She would gleefully laugh at each retelling of that story.

She obviously adored her family and had great stories to tell of her youngest grandnieces. She also had legitimate bragging rights about the success of "Mrs. Doubtfire" directed by her nephew-in-law Chris Columbus who included her brother William Clarke with cameo appearances in his movies.

I appreciated Peggy as our Wright Hall administrator and though she moved on after my first year, she remained a forever friend. My heart smiles when recalling the memories of our year together that we happily shared while ministering to our precious Sisters at Wright Hall.

Sister Kathleen Conway, BVM

My fraternal grandmother's maiden name was Devereux, so I always thought I was mixed Irish and French. That is until I met Peggy. She straightened me out by telling me that Devereux is a very Irish name and that perhaps, if we went back far enough, we would find that we were related. From that time on, we always greeted one another with "Hi, cousin".

Sister Georgeann Quinlan, BVM

I have happy memories of Peggy when we were in a swim exercise class in our small pool a few years ago. She loved the water and was always bouncing around with us, a smile on her face. I remember her telling me that Nancy McCarthy was one of her brightest students. Nancy enjoyed the class, too. Peggy took a little while in the dressing room, so we had a chance to "solve" some of the world's problems. What a delightful person! Enjoy the swimming on the other side, Peggy. You blessed us with your presence!

Sister Angele Lutgen, BVM

I got to know and observe Peggy through taking her very dear friend, Gen Freund, to see Peggy when she moved from Arbor to Gables. Gen and I usually went on Sunday afternoon and the three of us played cards or some other game. Peggy was definitely a people person! She did not want to stay in her room if she could roll her wheelchair down to the area where the sisters gathered and find any activities or sisters with whom she could talk.

Sister Ann Cronin, BVM

Many years ago, Peggy and I traveled to Ireland together. We landed in Dublin and rented a car to begin the first leg of our adventures. Driving on the opposite side of the car and roads was quite a challenge. We set out each day seeing sights and stopping at B and Bs each night. The highlight of the first days there was when we traveled to Cork City and tracked down my cousins. After a week of exploring on our own, we drove back to Dublin and gladly returned the rental car. We then boarded a tour bus which took us to beautiful sights, and we actually stayed in a nice hotel each night. All too soon, we were headed back to San Francisco. Peggy was a good sport, and we had a great time. When we were at a stop in Kilkenny, we ran into Therese Jacobs and Peggy Keefe who were staying at the same hotel. Small world.

Another Peggy memory is, she through her niece, was able to get very good seats to the San Francisco Giants baseball games. We always had a lot of fun on those trips.

David Duffy, Chattanooga, TN

I was so moved by the notice that Sister Mary Margaret just passed away. She was such a joyful and lovely human being. She is most prominent in one of my earliest memories of attending Our Lady of Perpetual Help. I was there for all K-8 grades between 1970 to 1979. I remember on my first day of first grade, I was excited to finally get to have lunch in the cafeteria. I had begged my mother for a special lunch box and thermos to carry. Sure enough, as soon as I opened the box, the thermos rolled out and hit the floor and shattered the glass lining inside. I was just standing there in the middle of the cafeteria in absolute tears. I remember Sister came to me, knelt down, and hugged me and said it would be alright. She wiped away my tears and I knew it would be. I'm in tears now thinking of her kindness and special love for kids. I'll never forget her.

Mary Ann Everett Biddle, Former Student

She was an angel on earth with a loving and giving heart. She was so supportive of my mom, me, and my siblings after the sudden death of my father. She was stern but gentle and loved by so many of us. So many great memories from my eight years at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. May she rest in peace.

Father Mike Nolan, Former Student

Thank you for getting the word out regarding Sister Mary Margaret. God shone brightly through her. Please know of my prayers for you and your community as you mourn her loss.

Sister Dolores "Dee" Myers, BVM

I have wonderful memories of Peggy; she was a people-lover and that was so predominant in the way she related to others as principal of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School and all parishioners, priests and even the bishop who was her former pastor. These were still segregation days in Chattanooga. Peggy and six other BVMs lived east over Missionary Ridge with the "whites"! Three more BVMs lived on the west side with all African American students and families. These were very challenging years when we BVMs navigated with "our people" as the March on Washington for freedom and justice made its plea. As educators and BVMs committed to the values of freedom and justice, we learned so much for these basic rights to flourish. We, BVMs, teachers of two distinct groups, conferred and supported each other as we learned what this meant living in the South of the 1960s.

Peggy and the OLPH sisters were so welcoming as we had a wonderful exchange of celebrations and gatherings that highlighted community events, vows, birthdays as well as educational opportunities. For several years, we had a Title Grant which provided a special education teacher in the person of BVM Helen Clare Ryan, who lived with us at St. Francis and taught part time at OLPH. Helen Clare insisted on sitting in the front seat of the car with her Black driver as she traveled to and from OLPH. Peggy was on the front line to invite and facilitate the transfer of black students from our school when we closed in 1969 and integrated with white Catholic schools of Chattanooga.

Peggy was very close to her father. Every winter, Mr. Devereux would spend as many weeks as he could in the mild south. It was easy to recognize that Peggy got her love-for-people genes from her dad. After meeting him once, we all looked forward to his visits as if he were our own dad. We knew Mr. Devereux loved us, too.

In January of 2000, nine BVMs in the West moved into St. Matthew's Convent in San Mateo, Calif. (This convent had been vacated by the Sisters of the Holy Cross who had staffed the school for many years. It was also the provincial house for the Holy Cross Sisters.) BVMs came from places that had closed or that beckoned us near a new job. Peggy was one of the originals. She traveled to San Francisco each day and taught reading to challenged students at St. Monica's School. Again, Peggy brought her outgoing and warm personality to our home. A highlight of the year was that we celebrated her golden jubilee with her family and area BVMs. In our spacious and beautiful home, we enjoyed entertaining her guests and praying a special Eucharist for Peggy's 50 years in our

chapel. St. Matthew's Convent was closed in 2005. Peggy moved to live with the Presentation Sisters in San Francisco to sustain her teaching ministry at St. Monica's. Peggy continued to add her joyful presence with us, her cluster for several more years. We were always happy to be together for special events and play time as well.

Tom Smith, Former Student, Our Lady of Perpetual Help

I have a wonderful story concerning Sr Mary Margaret. I was in second grade at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Chattanooga, Tenn. On the first day of school, I had an appendicitis attack. I think it about scared Sister Margaret and Mrs. Dadds enough to have heart attacks. After my surgery and recovery, Sister Margaret asked me what special thing I would like. I told her I wanted to ring the bell to let school out. She happily obliged. I did it many times that school year. I always thought she was a wonderful person. This meant so much to a 7-year-old. So grateful to have had her in my life.

Sister Elaine Campbell, BVM

I lived with Peggy for one year in Chattanooga. It was 1965 and it was her first year as superior and principal. Peggy was always pleasant and took the ups and downs of life as they came along. Peggy had a warm and welcoming smile and made sure the sisters had time and opportunities to enjoy the mountains and other places of interest in the area. Peggy came south to a house of sisters who had been there some years and who were wondering what changes were coming. She had the personality and temperament to make it all work.

Brian Smith, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Class of 1980

So sorry to hear of Sister Mary Margaret's passing. I know she is in the hands of the Lord reunited with all her friends and family. Just a short story about Sister Margaret. I attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help from 1970 to 1980. I think I spent more time in that decade in trouble than I did getting to go out for recess! But Sister Margaret, looking back, was so very kind to me. But my 8th grade year, on Fridays, she would let me ride my bike home during lunch to spend time with my mom. I didn't deserve that, but she let me do this anyway out of the goodness of her heart. May God, in Christ Jesus, bless and keep you always, Sister Margaret.

Sister Nancy McCarthy, BVM

I first met Peggy when I was in grade school at St. Mary's in Clinton, Iowa. I was already too old for her second-grade class, but she taught my brothers and got to know our family pretty well. She was always so interested in everyone in my family, and over the years, when she'd ask me about them, I felt she probably knew more about them than I did. Peggy, John Laurian (Kitty Lawlor) and Charmaine (LeMaire) all taught at St. Mary's while I was there. I couldn't help noticing how much fun they seemed to have together. I'm sure all three of them were the reason I first became interested in BVM life. They seemed to enjoy life so much and they didn't mind letting the students see that they enjoyed being together.

Much later in life, when Peggy was an administrator at Wright Hall in Chicago, I had the occasion to deal with her to arrange many meetings, mostly connected with associates. She couldn't have been more gracious, welcoming, and always fun to work with. My strongest memories of Peggy are from living with her in our Oak Park, Ill., house right before she moved to Mount Carmel. When Wright Hall closed, she came to live with us. A bonus to having Peggy in the house was that many of her family members lived close by so we had the pleasure of getting to know them since they visited often. When some of them came to visit Peggy before she died, they brought with them lots of memories too. Thanks for always smiling, Peggy, and always giving me a reason to smile too every time we met in hallway.

Mary Ann Fremgen

My memories of Peggy all focus around my dog Bronx. I didn't know Peggy before visiting her in Caritas Center in January 2019. Peggy's love of dogs became evident immediately. She would talk to my dog and want to share him with others around her every week for that year. When Bronx and I returned to visit we found Peggy in Arbor where she loved to have him on her lap. She talked to me about the dog their family had and how her mother would remind them of their responsibility to care for their dog. When Peggy moved to Gables, she was excited to see us visiting there also. Sometimes when Bronx was on her lap, she would comment on how clean he was. She would reminisce about her mother teaching them to brush, bath and feed their dog. While remembering about her dog I could see the joy she felt and the happiness my dog brought her. We will miss Peggy's joyfulness in visiting with Bronx every week. Peggy, may you rest in peace and joy.

Sister Carol Spiegel, BVM

I had the good fortune of living with Peggy in Oak Park, Ill. She had a warm, optimistic heart. As well as sharing daily life with us, she also shared her family. This was especially fun when the children visited in their costumes on Halloween. Thank you, Peggy.

Sister Ann Marie Dress, BVM

Peggy was a faith-filled, caring, adventurous, and fun-loving person. She had a twinkle in her eyes even as her memory lessened. A month ago, I had the privilege of wheeling Peggy to Sunday Mass. As Mass began, I realized that I had forgotten to pick up a song book. I turned to Peggy telling her I was sorry I didn't have the song book and she replied, "Don't worry we'll just hum!" After Mass, I took her back to Gables and made a wrong turn getting off the elevator. As I was wheeling her down the corridor, she said, "This doesn't look familiar, but we can't be lost as we didn't go outside!" I'm thinking, Great! I don't know her room number. As Peggy continued to enjoy the ride, we made a U-turn at the end of the corridor and with some guidance from Sister Regina Wagner, I returned her safely to the community gathering space. She was most grateful. Rest in peace, dear Peggy. You will be missed.

Sister Carol Cook, BVM

How does one remember a friend of so many years? Sixty years ago, I needed to observe classroom teaching for my practice teaching requirement. Both of us were at Holy Cross, Chicago, so Peggy invited me to her first-grade classroom. I learned so much from Peggy, lessons that applied to my eighth-grade classroom. She greeted everyone with a big smile, listened to their needs, and found a way to respond. These were traits she used for the rest of her life. Thank you, Peggy, for such valuable lessons and for all those years of friendship.