



In Memory of Sr. Ann Loyola McNamara

~Excerpts from a Reflection written by Sr. Mary Electa Barber ~

MARCH 27, 2012



Birth: January 14, 1912 — Death: March 26, 2012
Entered our Congregation: September 8, 1947
First Profession: May 26, 1949 — Final Vows: August 28, 1954

“There is we know, a time for mourning and a time for joy. Today, these two emotions will surely find a place together in our hearts. At the end of this long life of 100 years and 2 months, it may be that the need to praise God is upper most in our minds, because it is so clear how rich God’s blessings have been in the life of Sister Ann.

It was just a little over two months ago that we gathered to share in the joyful celebration of Sister Ann’s 100th birthday.

“Sister was in such good form that day, and how fortunate to have such a clear mind at her age. Yes, she truly enjoyed the blessings of that day. I can still see her coming down this aisle, waving from one side to another! So, when I heard of Sister’s death it was, in a way, unexpected. I used to smile when I read the obituary notices that someone died “unexpectedly” at 98 years of age, and would think, “How unexpected could that be?” However, death does sometimes come like a thief in the night...

“It was the summer after my final profession that I first met Sister Ann. It was my first assignment (to the new mission of New Brunswick, Canada) after leaving the rigors of the Juniorate year ... Sister Ann Loyola, Sister Patricia Shaughnessy and I left Graymoor on September 4, 1962 and stopped overnight in Rockland, Maine. It was there that Sister Ann received word that her mother had died. I always admired her for continuing that journey, opening a new mission, going through all the formalities before telling the Pastor her Mother had died and she would need to return to Connecticut to help with arrangements.

“Sister had the ‘gift’ of ‘common sense’ - which isn’t always as common as we think We were grateful, too, that Ann had a good sense of humor. We did not have a clothes dryer and one day it seemed like a good idea to complete the ‘almost dry’ clothes of Sister Ann on the old heating stove. Not a good idea as the scorched lines of the burner were emblazoned on the back of her shirts! ...



[After New Brunswick, Canada] “Sister was called to go to the Washington Retreat House to work on the completion of the new addition ... From the 60’s until the 90’s, our paths did not cross that much. However, around 1999, Sister was living back in CT ... I used to visit her there and was amazed at the things she was involved in. She had a Scripture sharing session and was involved in many of the activities of the Senior residents there. Everyone knew “Sister Ann” One of the things I admired about Sister Ann, and so many of our Sisters who, when no longer able to be active in ministry, still find a way to stay connected and to be of service to others When it became time to come home, I remember visiting her and being amazed that she had a portable sewing machine set-up on the desk and was thinking of making new curtains for her window. I remember Sister was so happy to move into the Residence with the spacious area to move around. I think she made history to be the first one to ‘wear out’ the call bell!”