



We Remember ...

November 25, 1915 - June 20, 2011

Sister Cecilia E. Willis was born in the beautiful land of Costa Rica in San Jose on **November 25, 1915**. She was blessed with many talents and gifts by God and her family. Of the gifts that served her extremely well was speaking the Spanish language, playing the organ and piano at different celebrations and being a precise seamstress. Sr. Cecilia could adapt a pattern to fit each Sister individually plus darn and remake pieces of clothing like new! For our Gift Shop, decorating note cards by tatting was a special gift she and Sr. Helen O'Brien possessed.

Sr. Cecilia was teacher of God's Word to one and all. Her mission assignments took her from California, small towns of the North Country of NY, to New Jersey, Camden and Runnemede, Douglas, GA and onto Florida, Lake Wales and Deltona. She and Sr. Helen O'Brien returned to Graymoor in March of 1989. Once again Cecilia began her music ministry at the Motherhouse and looked around to see where she could spread the Gospel. This brought her to Highland Falls, NY, Paterson, NJ, Yonkers, NY and Peekskill, NY. In these cities, she ministered lovingly to the Hispanics. No one will ever know the number of marriages blessed, children baptized, and adults brought back into the Church. In her later years, here at the Motherhouse, she taught children and adults how to play the piano. How many budding musicians do we have because of Sister Cecilia?

Amy, a niece of Sr. Cecilia, told how Sister came to Glen Rock, NJ to care for her mother, who was ill, and for her nine children. Sr. Cecilia lovingly cared for them until her mother was well. Later, her parents retired to Florida and her mother came down with cancer. At the time, Sr. Cecilia was in Lake Wales, FL and she helped her brother-in-law take care of his wife. She was also her sister's confidant and spiritual guide when she needed her the most. After Amy's mother died, her family became even closer to Sr. Cecilia. They often came to visit their Aunt Cecilia at Graymoor and she treated them like royalty - having special treats for the children. They would spend the afternoon playing games like Scrabble and other favorites. Yes, even at age 95 she still had her competitive spirit by checking the dictionary if she thought they were cheating! The family loved to hear her personal stories and words of wisdom and advice. Sr. Cecilia lives on in the memories we have of her. Our relationship is not finished, the relationship only changes for our love is our bond together. Sr. Cecilia died on **June 20, 2011**. May God grant her peace forever.