



We Remember ...

April 3, 1926 - June 19, 2011

Sister Mary Concepta Olguin felt the call to religious life as a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement at the young age of sixteen. Her mother said she was too young to make such a decision. However, Mary Concepta's inner strength and God's grace assisted her in beginning the long train ride from Albuquerque, NM to her final destination in Garrison, NY. She reached her final destination safely on September 7, 1942.

The call to minister with God's "least ones" brought her to bring God's Good News from Ticonderoga, NY to Vancouver, BC, Canada to the inner cities of New York at St. Jerome's, St. Cecilia's, and in Roxbury in Boston. In 1948, when the Japanese people were moved in Canada from Vancouver to Greenwood, Mary Concepta journeyed with them into the internment camp formed by the Canadian government in Greenwood. Her final profession of vows took place on August 27, 1949 at Graymoor after which she returned to her beloved Japanese people to continue ministering to them until June of 1950. Small towns on the East Coast of the US also were gifted with Sister's presence and spreading of God's Word and love. Sister's ministry to the sick and dying began as home visiting and then in 1982 she began ministering as a pastoral chaplain in Calvary Hospital in NYC. From there she was called to minister in Queen of Angels/Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA in September 1989. Then in July of 1990 she began ministering among the people of God in St. Benedict's Hospital in Ogden, UT.

It was from Ogden, UT that Sr. Mary Concepta returned to the Residence at Graymoor, Garrison NY on April 5, 2008. She was always grateful to the nurses and aides who assisted her during her stay and time of illness in the Residence. Gleaning from the reflection written by Kathy Tappen, one of our dear nurses who ministers in the Residence, we learned of some touching insights about Sister's life. In the end Sr. Mary Concepta left this world on God's timetable and not the doctors. For someone who was given months to live she lived her life fully. The gifts and lessons she shared with us during these years were her great love of Our Lady and the love of our Congregation. She battled on a daily basis with her health prognoses. Her gratitude was great for all who did anything for her. She had a special bond and journeyed with friend, Alice Scheff. They shared much together - faith, hope, love and the enjoyment of Sister's favorite flower, the calla-

lilly. Her sister, Sr. Francis Ignatius sat and prayed with, and for her, for many hours. Sr. Francis Ignatius showed much love and dedication to her sister - showing her strength and faithfulness.

The ladybug had a special place along Sister's journey. At one time, she did not like them at all. She came to know of their short life cycle - "this tiny beetle brings a message ... it teaches us to release worries and enjoy our life to the fullest ... when you see one, it is a reminder to let go and let God." Sr. Mary Concepta gently entered into the loving arms of her Lord on June 19, 2011. May she rest in peace now and always.