



Sharing of Memories of Linda (Frances Joan) Quinones, BVM

Mary Frances Clarke Chapel, Oct. 30, 2024

Sister Mary McCauley, BVM

Good afternoon. I am Mary McCauley and throughout the years I have offered a number of reflections at funerals for our sisters. As often as I have shared a memory, I do not believe that I have ever given any reflection a title. Yet this afternoon I am going to do just that. And the title is "The Gift of Serving as a Medical Companion."

Linda returned from Hawaii to Dubuque in the spring of 2014 to begin a series of medical treatments for the cancer she was experiencing. It was then that I was asked to serve as her companion. That simple YES led to our friendship.

I do not think that either of us could recall the number of visits we made to various doctors, to centers for chemotherapy and radiation, as well as subsequent medical follow up sessions and hospital visits. During each visit Linda witnessed to an unbelievable strength, a unique determination to heal along with a spirit of acceptance. Her faith was tangible. Her humor was evident.

It is true that Linda was quiet and reserved, never seeking any attention. At the same time, she was so strong, so wise, so perceptive, so kind, so delightful to be with. It was these characteristics that gave her the strength to endure the limitations she experienced with unique patience, kindness, forthrightness, determination and honesty.

Linda may never have taught in a traditional classroom, yet she taught all of us many significant lessons.

- + She taught us how to accept illness and at the same time to do all in our power to regain our health.
- + She taught us how to laugh and to keep things in perspective. Linda had a special chuckle and when Linda laughed, we all laughed.
- + She also taught us how to remain quiet and simply observe. Linda could very accurately size up a situation and then either comment with the hope of change and improvement or remain silent.
- + And finally, she taught us how to express gratitude. During the week preceding Linda's death, I was sitting with her. She was silent and I was silent. Then suddenly, she raised her head and said, "Thank you for everything."

Yes, she was expressing gratitude to me for serving as her faithful companion, but I also believe she was expressing gratitude to all of you. Gratitude to her wonderful family, to you, Beverly, and to Doris, to her nieces and nephews, and friends. And even though she told you, Beverly, not to come to her funeral because she would just be in a box, she is most grateful for your presence. Gratitude to all BVMs, especially the members of her set for sharing your love and support, your wisdom, understanding and laughter with her. Gratitude to the doctors, the nurses and therapists who cared for her. Gratitude to every Mount Carmel Bluffs staff person. And yes, gratitude to her God for caring, guiding, loving and supporting her throughout her life and now for welcoming her to eternal life.

Linda, we love you, we admire you and shall always be grateful for your presence in our lives.

Sister Carol Ann Spiegel, BVM

In 1960 my aunt, Sister Genevieve Spiegel, missioned in Hawaii, arranged for Linda, Judy Mack, and me to write to each other before we entered. As a result, my family met Linda at the train when she arrived in Dubuque after visiting her brother in San Francisco. We went to Farley for a lunch that Linda, unfamiliar with the food, could hardly eat. Looking back, I realize what courage she had as she navigated so many unfamiliar situations in her life. Now, Linda, may you feel completely at home in your new Life.

Curt, Nephew-in-law

I want to say a few words on behalf of the family. I am Linda's nephew-in-law joined today by Linda's sister Beverly. Linda's sister Doris, who is in Hawaii and couldn't make it is joining us from afar on the livestream and is with us in spirit. Also joining us is my better half, Kim, Beverly's daughter, Linda's niece, and Chris, Kim's brother, Linda's nephew.

So many of you spoke to us earlier today about Linda's sense of humor. I feel compelled to say we all just flew in from Hawaii and boy our arms are tired. I know Linda is certainly rolling her eyes at that one and Kim is rolling her eyes at me for that. In all seriousness, although we miss Linda dearly and are very sad that she is no longer here with us, I look around and see all these lei and aloha shirts and it makes all of us feel that this is truly a celebration of Linda's life and everything that she meant to us and to all of you. We just want to pass along all our thanks and gratitude because we know how special all of you were to Linda, how special this place was. We are so grateful that you have welcomed us in and joined us in this celebration. We really want to focus on the celebration of Linda's life. Thank you to all of you. We are so grateful to be here and to be joined by all of you. As they say in Hawaii, mahalo, thank you.

Sister Patricia Nooney, BVM

I entered the same day that Linda entered. Many years ago, Sister Betty Bowen, BVM, and I flew to Kauai to meet up with Betty's relatives who already had arrived there. After a day or so, I said, "You know, we need to call Linda and get together to visit." Linda drove to Kapaa, Kauai, to join us. She suggested, "I would like to take you on a tour." Of course, we said yes. Linda pointed out many wonderful attractions including the beautiful blooming trees and flowering plants. It was a wonderful tour.

Linda told us a story about roosters, hens, and chickens. This is the story. A long time ago, they lived in coops and cages until a serious tropical storm hit the island and destroyed the cages and the birds escaped. They have been roaming free ever since. Early morning, before the crack of dawn, the roosters make their presence known loudly. Maybe they think the people should be awake to enjoy the spectacular sunrises. Linda, it was a lovely tour. We already miss you. Mahalo, for the memory of your beautiful smile.

Sister Nancy McCarthy, BVM

When we were postulants, I was asked to help Linda with English grammar for her writing assignments, and I guess she asked if she could do something for me in return. So, the postulant mistress must have told her she could help me with sewing. I was hopeless with a needle and thread, and still am. We had to take our skirts apart every time we put them in the laundry. I was thoroughly spoiled by having Linda put mine back together each week. It was a real service, to say the least. We formed a sort of bond that has been lasting. Thank you, Linda, for the many times you brightened my life.

Sister Peggy Geraghty, BVM

I live in Chicago, so I haven't been in touch with Linda a lot over the years. However, I was lucky enough last month to spend two weeks at Mount Carmel Bluffs in Dubuque as I recovered from hip surgery. She was on the same floor, so I had many meals with her. Just a day or two before I left to go home, she came down to my room to spend some time with me. It was such a gift that she came to see me and that we shared so much about our lives. She told me that she did not expect to live long. The doctor told her that she could not live long with the disease she had. She was so fine with it. She didn't seem anxious or worried. She just seemed at peace and

almost happy about what she was sharing. I was so grateful for that time with her, the love that she shared, her beautiful presence, that beautiful smile, and her beautiful personality that she shared so personally with me that day. I wouldn't have had that encounter if I hadn't been lucky enough to be here for her that day.

Sister Josette Kelly, BVM

I have often thought that her baptismal name was most appropriate. I would see her coming toward me in the corridor. In the early days, I had to think quickly, "Now what is her name?" so I could address her by name. Then it came to me – Linda. Linda means lovely. She is lovely inside and out with that gorgeous smile that reached her eyes and our hearts.

Sister Elizabeth "Liz" Wirtz, BVM

I didn't get to know Linda well. We ran out of time. At least that's what I thought. Now I realize that the past nine months were special times together.

Shortly after my dismissal from the hospital on January 30, Linda came to see me while I was getting my hair cut. She opened the door and called out, "We need to get together!" She was reaching out to give me support. That was the beginning of several Saturday lunches in Vista, and eventually room visits in Gables. These talks were good for both of us, and we laughed a lot!

As I continued to grow stronger, Linda was growing weaker. I will always be grateful for Linda's presence in my life. Her attitude, courage, determination, and joy are gifts to us all. And there will always be laughter! Thank you, Linda. May you rest in eternal now.

Sister Catherine "Kitty" Ornellas, BVM

I am another Hawaiian. Linda and I did not grow up together. She is younger than I am. However, she was from Hawaii, and everyone from Hawaii, and everyone from Hawaii is an uncle, auntie, or a cousin. If you went to Hawaii, they would call you uncle, auntie, or cousin. All that you have said about Linda is true. I never had those experiences with her, but she comes from Hawaii so she is a part of me and always will be a part of me.

Sister Veronica Higgins, BVM

We had a bowling match this morning in her honor. She would have been bowling at this time when she was able to do it. There is a cluster of BVMs who bowl. Linda was a leader setting up the Wii bowling in Caritas Center. She liked to be in position #4 so that she could analyze the previous three players. She would wait until about the sixth frame. Always sitting on the far right, she would strike out from there and beat the other three of us with consistently lower scores. That's why the bowling is in her honor today. How do you say that you met someone so nice over a bowling ball? That was my experience with Linda. We were blessed to have Linda teach us in many ways. Keep her in your bowling prayers.

Sister Gwen Farry, BVM

I didn't meet Linda until Mary Kay Dum and I, as Regionals, had the privilege of traveling around the west. At that time, she was in the East Bay [San Francisco Area] and was suffering from an ankle problem for which she eventually had a replacement. Think that is still unusual now, but very unusual in the 1990s. We were able to visit Hawaii three times. One of my favorite memories was on Kauai when Marcelia [Maglinte, BVM] took us around the island to show us many beautiful sites. She took us to Linda's home. We were able to meet Linda's mom and brother. As we left, we were on a narrow road and had to go down, turn around, and come back. As we came back, Linda's mom was standing at the roadside waving at us to stop. She had a box of flowers and fruit from her garden. That's where Linda gets her wonderful smile and attitude.

Anne Klejment

[Sister] Josie Lucid and I always found it delightful to invite Linda to join us at Pete's Thai for a delicious dinner. Linda was knowledgeable about Asian food preparation and enjoyed perusing the variety and choosing her special meal. She always shared her lived knowledge of Hawaiian culture as well.

Lauren Kramer

I was a nurse working with Linda during my time at Mount Carmel. When I relocated to the west coast, every Christmas I came back and hung out with her in the Motherhouse. Rest in peace, Sister Linda.

Lori Ritz, BVM Associate

I just want to add one tidbit as you all share about Linda. Every time I met Linda in the hallway or dining room or chapel, she and I always shared a big smile with a little giggle. It never failed--EVERY TIME! Special thoughts and prayers on your journey, Linda.