

Sister Dorothy Marie (Langlois), CSC

(Louise Bernadette Langlois)

December 26, 1932–February 20, 2021

These memories were lovingly gathered from conversations with sisters, particularly those in the Sophia Community of Rosary Convent, while they sat and prayed with Sister Dorothy Marie during her last hours on Earth. Holy Cross Sisters Bernadette Mulick and M. Timothea (Kingston) collaborated in the writing. The memories were read by Sister M. Martha Ann (Norwood), CSC, at the end of the Mass of Resurrection on March 4, 2021.

On Saturday morning, February 20, Sister Dorothy Marie died. She had requested to leave the hospital and come home to prepare for her death in the company of her Sophia Community companions praying with and for her. Many sisters from the connected convents were present to offer prayers for the dead immediately after her death. Prior to Sister's burial on Monday, February 22, a brief prayer service was held in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto. At that time, her obituary was read. Now let us share some remembrances of Dorothy, a good friend, helpful companion, a faithful woman of Holy Cross.

Sister Dorothy spent her first 10 years of ministry as an elementary school teacher. It is not known if this was her first choice or a "training ground" in patience for her next 40 years in congregational finance and administration. Her ministry service began in 1966 when she was assigned as office manager at Holy Cross Academy in Brookline, Massachusetts.

She had had some business office experience and did enjoy working with numbers. As was quoted in her obituary, “She prided herself on being exact in finances, but also pleasant, cheerful and helpful.”

The stress of keeping bank accounts and account sheets balanced did not unbalance her personal life. She was an active, supportive member of her local community; valued the time for personal and communal prayer; and treasured the opportunities for annual retreats, days of recollection, spiritual reading and faith sharing. During her high school years, Father Robert Sheridan, SJ, introduced her to spiritual direction. He wrote in his letter of recommendation for Dorothy, then known as Louise Bernadette Langlois, that he “was impressed by her pleasure in spiritual things.” She was dedicated to spiritual direction in her life. Yet she never seemed satisfied with her understanding of God, of God’s love for her and for all people. Spiritual direction kept her grounded in this relentless search. Word of her death caused many of us to smile, even in our sadness, as we thought of that first moment God met Dorothy and Dorothy met God. Sister Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, wrote, “Sister Dorothy loved nature and it spoke to her of God’s abiding presence. She often prayed contemplating the beauty and uniqueness of the trees she could see from her window. In every season they drew her into prayer and nurtured her spirit of gratitude.”

Dorothy Marie was an avid, rapid reader, eclectic in her choice of books. Words into stories brought balance to working with numbers. She was a student of life, choosing her own texts as she looked for answers to questions. She liked to

recommend books to friends. Sister M. Timothea (Kingston), CSC, said she did not like the books Dorothy recommended to her and Dorothy did not like the books Timothea recommended. They had some interesting discussions. Reading served as a distraction for Dorothy when she was in extreme pain caused by illness.

Family was very important to Sister Dorothy Marie. We all know the excitement and delight of her sister Dot's visits, accompanied by niece Mary Ann and Mary Ann's companion, John. Dot did not come just to visit her sister; Dot came because every CSC on campus was her "sister." Dorothy's heart was heavy with deep sadness when she was not able to be with her sister during the last days of Dot's illness, death and burial. This ache Dorothy carried to the end, but always hidden in her smile.

Dorothy thrived on shopping and relished opportunities to dine out with community to celebrate a member's birthday or visit with friends from out of town. She could describe the event with such detail that her listeners felt they had been there and enjoyed the delicious meal.

Dorothy retired at Saint Catherine by the Sea Convent, Ventura, California, after a 10-year period there as finance councilor for the community. She learned the craft of quilting and became a true artist of quilting. Sister Bernadette Mulick, CSC, said Dorothy would spend hours arranging and rearranging small squares into a design, and then study appropriate color schemes for the quilt that became not just a quilt but an art piece. A work of art that could hang on a wall or provide beauty, warmth, comfort to a friend, a homeless

woman, or a mother with a newborn. When not quilting or designing placemats, she knit shawls for new mothers. Dorothy also was a volunteer at Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura. Her greatest joy at that time, she said, was holding the babies born prematurely. Maybe some of her God questions were becoming answers.

Father Sheridan's letter of recommendation in 1952 stated that Louise Bernadette Langlois "should make a splendid religious." Yes, Sister Dorothy Marie did make a splendid religious. May she now be at peace in the splendor of God.