



SR JULIETTE KAROOZ LCM

Today we come to farewell Juliette, beloved sister and auntie to her family and devoted and loved Sister of the Little Company of Mary. I join Francis in welcoming each one of Juliette's family, - George, Veronica, Colette, Christopher and your families. I know how proud Julie was of you and how pleased she would be to know that you are present with her in this last part of her journey.

We also come to celebrate a life well-lived, a life of loving service.

We have one purpose – to do His Will, to spread His Kingdom. Venerable Mary Potter

As I had listened to Julie's family and our Sisters reminisce about Juliette, and as I had reflected on her life through my own knowing her, what is abundantly clear was that she sought always to do the will of God.

Juliette was born in Bulli NSW in 1925, the eldest daughter of George and Adelaide Karooz. She was followed by Virginia, George, Uriel, Veronica, Colette and Christopher. They were a close family and her love and pride in each one was clear, and remained so, always. In particular, she and Virginia, as the two eldest girls were a special team, we knew that. With their sisters, they made a formidable fivesome.

Juliette completed her schooling to Intermediate level and then went on to undertake shorthand, typing and book-keeping diplomas, skills that she further developed when she was employed at Bulli Shire Council as Clerk for three years.

However, that was not enough for Juliette and in 1946, she followed the call of her heart and her God and entered the Little Company of Mary, at Lewisham. To do this, she needed to supply references and I would like to share a few sentences from those letters:

- *Juliette is a young lady of strong personality, extremely capable and trustworthy.*
- *She is thoroughly reliable, accurate and efficient.*
- *She is an indefatigable worker in church affairs.*
- *She is an exemplary Child of Mary, I need say no more.*

These early words remained true throughout Juliette's life and I would like to share just a snapshot of that life.

Having completed her General Nursing Certificate, Julie ministered for some years at Lewisham, in wards and then the operating theatre before she was transferred Cairns to continue that work, prior to completing her midwifery certificate. From Cairns she went to Melbourne, where she also achieved her postgraduate certificate in Recovery Room and Intensive Care.

However, the early skills that she had developed were soon to be needed and Juliette was called to set up medical records in Cairns, then to complete training in switchboard operation back in Sydney, and to refresh her typing skills, gaining a high distinction and to work in the LCM Nursing Home at Lewisham. From then on, Juliette's ministry was very much in administrative support, as Treasurer in Wagga Wagga and then as Provincial Secretary for many years until called to community leadership at LCM Convent, Ryde. Even as she withdrew from fulltime ministry, Julie stayed busy. She didn't really know how not to be.

Many are the Sisters who remember the tiny pencilled F on a file copy when Julie was managing correspondence and how disappointed she clearly was with you if the file copy, complete with pencil mark made its way into the mail. Many of us remember the lists, the detail she managed that made life run smoothly in convent and Province. Everything about Juliette was neat as a new pin, herself, her room, her bed. It was only last week I learnt that last was due to a tiny pen mark in the centre of the sheet, which enabled her to position it perfectly.

But there was much more to Julie's ministry than detail. We also recall her kindnesses. As one of the sisters said to me, it was Julie who saw a need and did something about it. *"Some sisters talk, others do. Juliette did"*. From stocking the pantry when sisters moved into a new house, to baking cakes for sisters' families when they came on holidays so that there was something to welcome them, that was Julie too. Juliette was a woman of integrity and action but also a woman of compassion. She held herself, and others to a high standard but was the first willing to help you reach it. She took Mary Potter as her model and her nieces, Mary and Anne shared with me that they too had received advice from Auntie Julie that was sourced from Venerable (always the Venerable) Mary Potter.

Over the last years, Juliette suffered many difficulties through her dementia. But she always knew the love of her family and relied upon their steadfast love of, and regular presence with, her. One of her great joys was her Monday afternoon Rhodes shopping centre pilgrimage with Anne. Every family visit was special. Another constant for her was her commitment to a life of faith and prayer as an LCM Sister. Illness could never change that.

Juliette's motto is Ecce Homo – Behold the Man. On Sunday, Juliette came face to face with the One she had followed in love throughout her life. In complete peacefulness, she beheld the face of her God and entered into the fullness of eternal life.

Juliette, Julie – Thank you

May you rest in peace, good and faithful servant.