

A resume of Sr. Anne Gunning's Life

Sr. Anne came from Kilbane, Broadford, Co. Clare a place of beauty. The lovely hills surrounded her home, were a source of inspiration, "*Oh, my lovely hills of Clare*". Born 1923 post independence, she was able to apply her gifts in the home/farm. She was 2nd eldest in a family of 11. She received her secondary education in Limerick.

Sr. Anne entered the Little Company in 1940 and got the name Sr. Andrew. She made her final profession in October 1945. She moved into the world of Nursing-study and was a very brilliant student. She also had a good work ethic. She believed in doing her best always for the Lord - as in her Motto: "***All for Jesus through Mary***".

She went to Africa in 1964, to Little Company of Mary Hospital Pretoria. She worked in various nursing capacities between Harare and Port Elizabeth. In 1977 she undertook a Theatre course that equipped her for ministry in LCM Hospital, Pretoria, a very busy hospital. To this day, Sr. Anne is remembered by Doctors and staff for her perfection and professionalism. I imagine the Sisters in Africa can embellish this part.

Sr. Anne took a few sabbaticals to be renewed and to prepare for the journey ahead. She had to take time out so that her energy and focus of her life be in tandem. In 1974 - she did Theology at Fons Vita Institute, Johannesburg. She also did Spirituality Course in St. Beuno's in Wales. This afforded an opportunity to stand back from all the activity and rest while. She had to accept the reins of authority, as Superior/Matron, St Anne's Harare. Later she was Regional Councillor for at least 4 years in Africa. Her ministry in Africa ended in 2002.

Year 2002

Sr. Anne came back to her native heath, Co. Clare due to ill health viz.memory loss. She was in Carrigoran House Nursing Home for 7 years. This place is run by the Incarnate Sisters of Charity. It has a special unit for Alzeimers patients. Early on Anne could converse and talk about reflexology. When she retired in Africa, she studied massage and reflexology. She got great joy from it, seeing this as here healing ministry. In Carrigoran she delighted in a little massage of patients hands. She would note Tom's shoe laces were open and assisted him or Mary's dress torn. At the end of a visit, Anne would see you to the door and she was not free to follow, one could sense she wished it was otherwise. Sr. Mary Morrisroe was her designate carer in Ireland and saw to her needs.

These years were her hidden years "years of solitude and quiet" no longer in the driving seat. She accepted to be lead. She always had a smile and if not we were pained when she was sad. Since April, Sr. Anne had been in Milford Care Centre. We were so happy to have her here to visit etc. Joy filled our hearts. She was loved by all the staff, to quote a care assistant "Sr. Anne never asked for anything, nor wanted anything". Her cup was overflowing. Her falling asleep in the Lord was tranquil. Her family were by her side all the way. This was such I comfort and healing for them.