

Sr. Breeda Treacy 1929 – 2011

Entered Religious Life 1954

Motto: *One with Jesus through Mary*

Breeda though diagnosed with incurable cancer two years ago she remained active and involved until four days before her death. She did not seem to grow old and was always very particular that she looked her best. Though she did not talk out loud about dying it was obvious she was well prepared and ready to go when the Lord called her.

Those of us who were privileged to have some time with her during the last months found she loved to reminisce about her childhood/youth and her life in Little Company of Mary. The Charism was truly enfolded and palpable in her, she was so fulfilled in Little Company of Mary, had such freedom to use her skills in Pastoral ministry and was devoted to the Church. She was a trained nurse and midwife before she entered Little Company of Mary and had worked for some time as a midwife. She relates she was not particularly religious and certainly had no desire to enter Religious life. She had a serious boyfriend but she could not escape the nagging constant call within herself to commit her life to God. She never regretted her decision. She relates how she was so edified by the faith level of her female colleagues where she worked, as many of them went to daily Mass and prayed.

1957 Breeda was sent to minister in Port Elizabeth South Africa where she worked as a midwife, and enjoyed her time there. Back to Ireland in the mid-sixties she was drawn to and saw the need to train in pastoral ministry. This she did in the United States and equipped herself for this new ministry. She was blessed to be taken on the staff in Milltown Theological Institute, Dublin and was involved in the training and supervision of clerical students and others in hospital pastoral care. She always talked about this time as being very special.

A new phase in her life opened up when she was elected on the General Council in London. Even though it was sad for her to leave Milltown she responded to the call and completed six years in that ministry. From there and until she got ill in 2009 she was involved in pastoral care in the Queen's medical centre hospital in Nottingham and the Cathedral parish.

She had a special gift to operate in small groups and people were drawn to her. She became known extensively in Nottingham, had a great gift to remember names and keep up friendships with a wide circle of people. She loved people and was instrumental in accompanying many converts into the Catholic faith. She could take people where they were. This was very obvious when she was ill and when she died. Many people came to her funeral and sent sympathy and related how they miss her still in Nottingham.

We miss Breeda in the Community and many things remind us of her. May she inherit all she believed in and more.

**Compiled by Sister Maura Carmody LCM
On behalf of the Sisters, 1st Floor Community, Braemor Park**