

Remembering



Sister Veronica Maloney, CSJ

June 11, 1920 ~ October 28, 2016

On June 11, 1920, Gustave Albert Maloney and Lyla Theresa Tierney welcomed their fifth child and second daughter, Veronica Emma. She had been preceded by twins, Kathleen and Joseph, Michael, Edwin and would soon be joined by John. The family was settled on a farm on the Alberta Prairie in British Columbia, Canada. After a disastrous fire destroyed their home and the crop was destroyed by an early snow, the family was forced to leave their home and look for a new life in the United States. Gustave, Lyla and their six children ranging in ages from ten to one headed for California. They settled in Los Angeles where Gustave began a new life as a carpenter. When Lyla died at an early age, Kathleen took on the care of the family during what Veronica described as "the ruthless depression years,"

Veronica never forgot Kathleen's great personal sacrifice nor did she forget their strong Canadian roots in Alberta.

Veronica attended Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School and Bishop Conaty High School. It was here that she met the Sisters of St. Joseph. One in particular, Sister Josephine, became very influential in her life. Veronica wrote about herself, "My devotion to her was so great that I took Advanced Algebra because she was the teacher." ! It was Sister Josephine who recognized a growing vocation and suggested that Veronica talk to a priest about it. Veronica saw no need to discuss her vocation; she already had one! Knowing this, she found it more difficult to take the step because it meant leaving her father, a widower at 52.

Veronica entered the Postulate of the Sisters of St.

Joseph at St. Mary's Academy on September 15, 1938 and received the habit on March 19, 1939, receiving the name Sister Albert Joseph. After her first profession of vows on March 19, 1941, Sister Albert Joseph began her full and active ministry in both elementary and secondary education and in Community Service as local superior, postulant mistress, regional superior, and councilor. Veronica spent a total of 18 years in elementary education at Transfiguration School in Los Angeles, Santa Clara in Oxnard, Star of the Sea in San Francisco and in Sonoma, California. She continued as a religion teacher at St. Mary's Academy and at the Academy of Our Lady of Peace. She writes of her experience in ministry, "(I had) eight different areas of service of which only two were self-initiated!"

When asked if she had any special memories of her years in ministry, Veronica always reverted to the Bel Air Fire in 1961 when, as Postulant Mistress, she faced the task of supervising their evacuation to the Doheny campus and the six-month challenge "of supervising and guiding 61 teenagers living in cramped quarters, full of energy, investigating their vocation and pursuing a college education! "To this day, there is a special relationship between Veronica and her "Fire Postulants" and many present and former members are frequent visitors! In her ten years in this ministry she journeyed with approximately 550 discerning women.

In the 1980's Sister Veronica, with Sister Pat Callahan, co-founded Volunteer Caregivers,

in Ventura, California. This organization pairs volunteers with senior citizens who have everyday needs such as shopping, doctor appointments, housekeeping, thus allowing them to remain in the familiarity of their own home. Both Sisters Veronica and Pat were the driving force behind Caregivers and contributed amazingly to its success. Today, it stands as an independent group with volunteers from the Ventura community assisting the needy in their own community, no longer sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Veronica was devoted to her family and friends. She was especially proud of her three brothers who had served during World War II—Joe and Ed in the Canadian army and Michael, stationed in Japan in the American army. She lovingly cared for Kathleen in her last years, especially during her years at St. John of God. Veronica had an extraordinary interest and involvement in the lives of her nieces and nephews; she loved them unconditionally and was always concerned for their welfare and happiness. Their loyalty and devotion to her, she always cherished.

To her many friends, Veronica was a loyal and delightful companion and was a source of wisdom and inspiration. Of particular note was her long-time friendship with Sister Jean Church, CSJ. She knew and delighted in the fact that she was so greatly loved by so many.

Sister Veronica joined Holy Family Community in February, 2006, to begin her ministry of prayer and witness. She was an interested and involved member, taking advantage of all the spiritual and

social opportunities offered. Even as her sight and hearing failed and she became more and more dependent on her wheelchair, Veronica never lost her zest for life.

She had always loved surprises and was ready to celebrate anything, any time... a St. Albert's Day Party, an Over the Hill at 60 Party, a "Year of Joy" for her Jubilee. She saw humor in everything and was ready with a chuckle or a good laugh. She often plotted.... for a good time, a trip, lunch at Duke's in Malibu and she never lost interest in what was happening, always wanting to know "What's new?" "What's up? " Veronica's love of surprises was evident in her last day among us. Having lived out the day, following her usual routine of meals, sleep, friendly interaction with staff, and receiving Eucharist, she took

a surprise turn during the night. As morning dawned, friends and Sisters assembled and were with her as she received the Anointing of the Sick, was serenaded with Sancte Joseph, and then promptly took her last breath at 9:09 a.m.

I'm sure Veronica was as surprised, as all of us were, to have her earthly life end so peacefully and abruptly, allowing her to enter into the fullness of God's joy which she had so beautifully mirrored all her life.

We can only imagine what joy now fills her heart. May she rest in peace. ✠

~ Written by Sisters. Adrienne Clare Pereira and Margaret Mary Murray, CSJs

Sunflowers always look at the brighter side of life.

Be just like the sunflowers which look upon the sun, not the dark clouds.

Rise
Shine
and
Hold your head high.
~Anonymous

