



Remembering

Sister Adrienne Clare Pereira, CSJ

July 24, 1931—August 4, 2019

Born in Honolulu on the Island of Oahu, Shirley Irene was the first child of Clarence and Florence (Chaves) Pereira. Her Mother had also been born near Honolulu on a plantation while her Father was born in Wailuku on Maui. Her sister, Eloise, was born on Oahu a couple of years after Shirley.

They had many relatives on the Islands - grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins - who enjoyed being together. Bishop Stephen Alencastre, SS.CC., her Grandmother's cousin, was the Bishop in Hawaii who invited the Sisters of St. Joseph to come and minister in his Diocese. The response was positive!

Her Father, Clarence, was a member of the National Guard, but with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he immediately became a member of the army. Shirley was just ten at the time of that traumatic experience and her family was evacuated the following summer to northern California.

When it was time for her to begin high school, Star of the Sea Academy in

San Francisco was chosen. She and her sister (who was a 7th grader at the time) traveled by bus and street car from Daly City. This is when they first met the Sisters of St. Joseph. Shirley often spoke of how friendly, welcoming and helpful they were along with being great teachers. It was there that she felt that she might be being called to religious life, but, it wasn't until Sister Colette McCann approached her about entering the Sisters of St. Joseph that she was certain where God wanted her to be. She had been taught by the Maryknoll and Holy Names Sisters, but she never questioned where she belonged. She was one of the five girls who entered from Star of the Sea on September 15, 1949.

In March 19, 1950, Shirley received the habit and the name, Sister Adrienne Clare, which she would be known by the rest of her life -- except for her

Onephews who called her Auntie Honey. She made her first profession on March 19, 1952 and her final vows on August 15, 1957.

Home Ec was her initial focus in College but that changed to American History in which she received both her BA and MA degrees from the Mount. She credited her history teachers with providing her with a life-long love of history. And, that love encouraged in her a desire to travel as well. She often said that she only needed 10 minutes to be ready to go - and the location could be just about any place - from Europe to Washington D.C.; from the California missions to Japan; from the National Parks to the huckleberry patches in Idaho. She truly was always ready to have a new experience.

Adrienne's education in Home Ec along with her willingness to do about anything was probably one of the reasons she was involved in a variety of experiences. Because of her sewing skills, she was one of

Among the Sisters to experiment with creating different outfits in place of the traditional habit. She undoubtedly helped many sisters convert their habits to suits, dresses or skirts. She may have followed in the footsteps of her grandmother who could look at a dress in a store and then go home and make one that looked just like it. Her cooking skills were similar. She was adventurous and willing to experiment with a variety of different foods. She enjoyed being creative in the kitchen to the delight of those who would enjoy her creations.

While her ministerial life began with teaching the second grade at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Palo Alto followed by a year of teaching the 6th grade at St. Patrick's School in Pasco, Washington, her other teaching assignments were in secondary schools. She taught at Santa Clara High School in Oxnard

(more than once), Cathedral Girls High in San Diego, and in the CSJ sponsored schools: Our Lady of Peace, St. Mary's Academy, and Carondelet High School. She also served in administrative roles in some of those schools as well as being the Principal at St. Mary's Academy at St. John Chrysostom in Inglewood.

Her willingness to do whatever was needed, led her to participate in an experimental living/ ministry opportunity at Carondelet High School. She also facilitated the effort to create an alternative living situation for retired sisters in Northridge. She worked in development both at Carondelet Center and St. Mary's Academy as well as working at the Mount in coordinating facilities improvements. For a number of years, she was the Administrator at Carondelet Center where her Home Ec skills were definitely helpful. She also served in the Province's ministry office as well as being a Regional Superior - linking an LA region with the Northwest. During her pseudo-retirement years, she served as an interim principal at St. Mary's Academy and then as a mentor to future principals. She also served on the Board of Directors there and volunteered her services in whatever ways would be helpful to the students, faculty and/or administration.

DShe obviously took seriously the mandate to do all of which woman was capable and to serve the dear neighbor without distinction.

Prior to her 60th Jubilee, Adrienne wrote the following: "Ten years ago when I celebrated my Golden Jubilee, I was astounded at the feelings of joy and gratitude that welled up inside me. I did not expect to be that excited!! Now, ten years

later, I anticipate that same joy, gratitude and excitement - plus ten! I have been blessed with living with women with whom I share values and lifestyle and with meaningful ministry. I have also had tremendous opportunities for education and for travel. God has been very good to me!"

In writing about enrolling at Star of the Sea Academy she states: "The sisters I met and got to know were warm and friendly; they genuinely liked us. It was not known as 'inclusive love' in those days, but, it was evident. Looking back, it's not a surprise that I would want to be a part of their lives."

She continues: "At each place I ministered, I tried to be like the first CSJ's I had met at Star. I genuinely liked my students and the men and women with whom I ministered. Looking back, it was 'inclusive love' in action again."

In the early part of Advent in 2017, Adrienne joined in making fudge and caramels as a Christmas treat for the Sisters at Carondelet Center. Before the batches of candy were all wrapped, her community members got her to the hospital which proved to be the beginning of stumping the doctors as they looked for the primary cause of her condition. Without what seemed to be clear direction, they were hesitant to move forward with surgery or other serious procedures. It was during the next 15 months or so that she went through a time when she could have nothing by mouth... and then a time when she could have liquids... and then a time when she was creative about pureeing whatever she could eat. She accepted those times as challenges and surprised others by the concoctions that she would put together and puree for breakfast,

lunch or dinner! She also continued to keep up with her Cluster and Book Club and especially with what was going on at St. Mary's Academy. When she returned to Carondelet Center from the hospital for her final stay, she commented that she looked like a little old lady and it surprised her. She didn't focus on herself but was aware of all that was going on around her, in community and in the world. She even attended the Province Chapter in April. When asked, she would respond that she was having a good day - or that she was having a bad day that was going to get better. She also said that she was probably sicker than what she felt or believed, but that only seemed to give her motivation to do whatever she could to care for herself and get better.

Shortly before the Sisters began gathering for the post Chapter meeting earlier in August, Adrienne took a turn which signaled that her final days had begun. She was happy to have Sisters stop by to say hi and then began her final peaceful journey, dying at 9:32 in the evening of August 4, 2019. May she now rest in peace and enjoy celebrating her 70th Jubilee in heaven in March of 2020! ❖

~ Sister Pat Rosholt in collaboration with Sister Adrienne Clare