

Eulogy for Sister William Margaret Young
By Lilimarie Evelyn

Good morning everyone, I am Sister William Margaret's niece, Lilimarie. It's an honor for me to give tribute to our beloved aunt today, I am especially grateful because she gave me my name. Also present here, her niece Julia and nephew Peter.

First of all, our family expresses our deepest thanks and appreciation to Sister Mary Lou, all the sisters, the dedicated medical team and wonderful staff of Allegany Motherhouse for all you did to make her final days as comfortable as possible.

She was given her name Pearl Mavis Young, aka. Pearlie, her Chinese name Yuk Len for Jade Lotus, Margaret, William Margaret, Willy and to all her nieces and nephews, Aunt Marge! Aunt Marge was many things. She was a Franciscan Sister, high school teacher, public health nurse, mid-wife, administrator, caring sibling. loving aunt and true friend. She was humble, selfless, compassionate, kind and witty, always with a smile on her face.

She was the 5th of 11 children born to Philip and Christine Young in Jamaica. At age 5, the family migrated to Hong Kong. Between the late 1930s and most of the 1940s, a young Aunt Marge and the family endured much hardship due to the ravages of the Sino-Japanese war. There were wide- spread shortages of food and necessities. Eventually they had to flee from Hong Kong into mainland China, As the years went by, she left with her Aunt Lily to India. There she would work as a typist for the American Red Cross and saved for her passage back to Jamaica. She learned to drive a stick- shift Jeep, a skill which became even more valuable later on as she taught many others to do the same. Evidently from a very young age, she learned to rise like a Phoenix from the ashes of adversity, through perseverance and determination.

Her greatest dream became reality with the opening of the Hope Teaching Health clinic in Montego Bay, Jamaica in 1975. She was the co-founder along with the Jesuit Superior Father William Connolly. Her family and friends contributed greatly to this effort. She was a dynamo in the Montego Bay community, and was well-known and respected for her care and compassion to the tens of thousands of underprivileged who came to the clinic. She was gracious and calm under pressure and didn't "sweat the small stuff". There is a saying in Jamaica "Mi likkle but mi tallawah: This means " I may be small in size, but big in heart and determination". This, was Aunt Marge!

She also founded Project Hope which provided food packages to the elderly and poor, the Natural Family Planning Center where she introduced the Billings Method, as well as the Hope Hospice for the dying, during the outbreak of HIV/AIDS in the 1980s.

In 2018, she received the Friends of Good Shepherd International Humanitarian Award for her lifelong services to the poor. When receiving this award, she thanked the volunteer doctors, nurses and staff. She was especially grateful to Sister Myrna and Sister Joy who succeeded her in running the clinic when she retired in 2005 at the age of 81. They have been doing a phenomenal job ever since!

Aunt Marge was very independent. More recently, at ages, 90, 92, 93, 94, she travelled by herself on Amtrak from Tampa to Miami to celebrate her birthday along with my mom's with many family members present. During her trip down, sometimes, there would be as much as a 5 hour delay on the train, but this never bothered her in the least! She just went with the flow!

I was so happy that recently, she was able to celebrate her 98th Birthday with a delicious Chinese meal. She received many cards, letters, sweets, flowers and even an orchid Lei from Hawaii.

My last conversation with her was for a cherished 18 minutes on her

birthday. She was overwhelmed by the great amount of birthday love she received and how much it meant to her. I will remember this forever.

My daughter Kelsey once asked her what was the secret of a long and happy life. This was her wise reply.

1. Don't worry about little things or take it too seriously or personally
2. Eat healthily
3. Get good sleep
4. Read every day
5. Have lots of friends
6. Treat everyone with respect
7. Stay even-tempered
8. Forgive easily
9. Think well of everybody
10. Focus on the positives, not the negatives

Ernie Smith, the famous Jamaican Reggae artist once had a hit song called "Life is just for living" Indeed when it came to Aunt Marge, one could say that and more. Her motto was "Life is just for giving" And so, we give thanks for her life and what she has given to us and this world - the lives she touched, the memories and lessons she has left with us!

So, farewell Aunt Marge, we love and miss you, until we meet again!

I hereby conclude with Aunt Marge's own words: "God bless you all, and, walk good!"