

Sr. Sandra Teevens, OSF

As I reflect on my experience of Sandy and that of others who have known her, the following descriptions come to mind:

A dear friend...with a strong heart and a gift for encouraging others...one who was compassionate and empathetic...who had learned from the joys and suffering in her own life and was kind to others.

Sandy grew up in an Irish Catholic home in Rhode Island and dearly loved her family... and still does. Her care and concern also extended to her Allegany sisters and people she met along the way. She was recently described as "strong and kind...without judgement...full of life and abundance...a doer and joyful...one who listened well and had much to give. She was fun."

Sandy had a sense of humor and knew how to make others feel welcome. She was creative and liked to share faith and prayer. She prayed for others and asked others to pray for & with her. She was a humble advocate who sometimes made "good trouble" (John Lewis-style), choosing the good of another or the congregation over personal gain. She lived our Franciscan charism and I thank Sandy for her example of integrity.

Sandy was accepting of others, nonviolent and without bias. She was well-suited for service involving outreach and receptivity to those in need. She was at home among those who were poor. She was a teacher, patient advocate, responder on a crisis hot line, a community person, pastoral and liturgical minister. She had a spirit of hospitality and was honest, down-to-earth, and a good listener. In recent years, she adapted to what her bodily abilities allowed her to do in service of her sisters and others. Perhaps unknown to her, she was leading by quiet example.

Sandy was a friend to our Allegany Franciscan Associates, especially those in New Jersey and Allegany area. Even when the pandemic limited our gatherings to Zoom, she would try to "be there" and never forgot them. Nor they, her.

Where did Sandy get the love for God and others that many of us experienced in her? I suspect that she was open and God taught her. Her love for God was expressed in song, prayer and service. In our Camden, NJ days together, Sandy, Margaret and I were involved in the Charismatic Renewal. It was characterized by openness to the Spirit of God and to community with others. It was a blessing! More recently, Sandy discovered St. Padre Pio and his example of love for the Lord. This is the same good Lord that will take care of her and Margaret. They are in good hands. We need not worry.

Conclusion of his Prayer after Communion:

"Stay with me, Lord, for it is You alone I look for, Your Love, Your Grace, Your Will, Your Heart, Your Spirit, because I love You and ask no other reward but to love You more and more. With a firm love, I will love You with all my heart while on earth and continue to love You perfectly during all eternity. Amen."

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