

I would like to begin by welcoming all who have joined us to celebrate the life of Jean Hayes, a woman who lived her Franciscan vocation with humor, compassion, grace, gratitude and faithfulness to her God.

On behalf of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, I extend our sympathy and condolences to Jean's brother Dinny, her sister Mary who is unable to be with us today, and brother-in-law Bruce. Dinny, your commitment to Jean, through your visits and nightly phone calls brought her great joy. We also enjoy your brotherly presence among us. Blessings on all of you at this time.

Only 5 weeks ago at a party, Jean surprised Sisters and Staff by singing her version of Bob Hope's signature song, "Thanks for the Memories". Now is our turn, Jean, to pay you tribute and thank you so much.

As Jean would proudly tell you, she grew up in the First Ward, or South Buffalo as some call it. Her parents, Joseph and Margaret sacrificed, so that their children could have a Catholic School education. Jean went to Our Lady of Perpetual Help which began a relationship with the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany that would last a lifetime.

Like most of the sisters of her time, Jean received her Bachelor of Science from St. Bonaventure University in Education. She then went to Cortland State for her Master's degree in Reading. At least that was the intent of Marie Patrice who was the Education Coordinator; however, Jean, who had always wanted to participate in "theater" signed up for 1 class in reading and the remainder in theater. Little did Jean know that her semester grades were sent directly to Marie Patrice. As stated in her obituary Jean's degree *was* in Reading and it was agreed she would get a minor in Speech... integrating both reading and theater. It was there that she honed her passion for performing, and we were the beneficiaries!

This innate gift of performing was also used when she was principal in schools in Allegany, Pennsauken, and Waterbury. Her stories of plays,

nativity scenes and other events. with the children were plentiful and dramatically and hysterically shared with us.

As we all know Jean served as Local Minister of the Motherhouse for 8 years. She was always a welcoming/joyful presence to all who came through these doors. During 4 years of her term, the renovation of the Motherhouse took place. It was a challenging time and Jean's complete focus for those 4 years was on the health, safety and welfare of all her sisters. She was unhesitantly vocal if the sisters were not a priority in any decision made.

When Jean completed her ministry as Local Minister, she volunteered wherever she was needed which included, switchboard, proprietor of Conveniently Yours, and contributor to the Franciscan Crafters. What beautiful blankets she crocheted, especially using the Irish weave and these were frequently sold before they even made it to the Gift Shop.

Jean's mobility was challenged during these past few years; however, faithful to her commitment to the evangelical life, she managed the long, slow walk to chapel daily for prayers, liturgy, adoration or whatever communal gathering took place. She was most grateful for her Franciscan vocation and all the gifts she had experienced in life.

Almost daily you would hear Jean proclaim how blessed we are and then cite the bounty that is ours from the gift of daily mass to the meals and everything in between, especially health care. Jean's frequent expression of gratitude was the pronouncement ... "There was nothing that we don't have here at the Motherhouse. We are so blessed".

Perhaps her happiest time, was spent with the sisters in St. Francis and St. Elizabeth communities. Jean thoroughly enjoyed praying with her sisters in St. Francis' Community every Friday. And, if Jean was missing, you would find her in one of these communities being loved and recharged by those who had a special place in her heart.

This coming Sunday the Academy Awards will be given out. Jean would have been front and center watching it all, taking in the glitz, glamour,

and the theatrics of each award. Then at breakfast on Monday she would have shared all the details.

Jean, you have earned your *eternal* award.

Go now in peace and with our gratitude for your life and commitment, to your Allegany Franciscan vocation, Sisters, and all those you love.

Thanks for the Memories

For your amazing sense of humor,

The stories that you told

and the devotion to your sisters that never seemed to grow old,

Thank you so much.

You will be missed!

Amen