



EULOGY SR LOUISE TARPEY, CSC

Louise Tarpey has transitioned into her next life and, if what we believe comes to pass, she is in her next life hugging her father, Charles, her mother, Diana – yes, hugging, since there is no Covid where she is now. There will certainly not only be a special hug for her brother, Charles, but perhaps more accurately an element of total surprise since the death of Charles was never a reality for Louise and she would always correct anyone with, *“It’s not my brother who died, it was my cousin.”* This was, undoubtedly, a very special reunion – seeing her brother whom she loved.

As I see in my mind’s eye Louise transitioning into her eternal rest, I see her God welcoming her with these words, *“Welcome good and faithful servant...”* with the emphasis on *“faithful servant”*. To know Louise is to know of her ministry of service. *“Yes”* was always on her lips and in her heart as she went about her life *“at the service of”* wherever she was missioned and whatever obedience / ministry to which she was assigned.

Louise was named *“Superior”* of many local communities throughout Sacred Heart Province / U.S. Region and the title never got in the way of the *“nitty gritty”* demands of life in that role – a role she lived for a total of twenty-nine years. Wherever she lived, Louise – at the service of --would leave faithfully to fill up a station wagon with kitchen supplies for those who did the cooking – especially for the groups in Pittsfield and the various meetings that were held in West Franklin.

- When a cook was absent, Louise would take over preparing delicious meals.
- When Pittsfield was the *“pied-a-terre”* for the young sisters, Louise was quick to offer them outings – which they appreciated.
- Often, Louise invited her mother to stay with her for a while and, inevitably, we would find Mrs. Tarpey in the kitchen with Louise chatting, doing dishes, peeling potatoes, apples, etc. I’m guessing that Louise inherited her sense of service from her mother...

When Berakah celebrated the 50th anniversary of the purchase of the Pittsfield property, I was asked to prepare a PowerPoint for the occasion. Louise was the only living Superior who had been at Our Lady of the Lake in Pittsfield and it was important to highlight that significant reality. I had informed Louise that I had incorporated a slide of her under one of the crabapple trees in front of the building. When I gave her the signal, I wanted her to stand by the screen to show that she was still young... When she came up, Louise stood up straight and tall, pulled on her suit jacket and proudly said with that smile of hers, *“this is the same suit I was wearing when that photo was taken AND it STILL fits me.”* Aren’t we all proud of that type of accomplishment?

Louise lived through the loss of two good friends, i.e., Sister Frances Lessard with whom she entered and Sister Pauline Plante. Of the latter, I recall how faithful they were to highlight holydays and holidays with special gifts they would purchase for the sisters. Every December they would make a special trip to Spag's in Shrewsbury -- a bargain store where they reaped the benefit of this trip by finding everything they were looking for -- even if they weren't sure what that was until they saw it!

The hardest and saddest thing for Louise was when she closed her mother's apartment due to a stroke and then admitting her to Sacred Heart Home.

One of Louise's greatest joys was the birth of her three nephews. How happy she was to "*show them off*" to us when they came to visit at St. Joseph Convent in Nashua. Then came the next generation -- four more boys -- Louise's four grand nephews. With each birth of the next Tarpey generation, there was always the hope for a girl. And one finally arrived. How thrilled Louise was to make this announcement of her one and only grandniece. No matter -- boys or girls -- Louise loved them all.

Louise's favorite Scripture quote is from Micah 6:8

**To act with justice
To love with tenderness
And to walk humbly with my God.**

I would say that Louise lived the last line of her favorite quote from Micah: "**to walk humbly with my God**". As age crept up on Louise, so did her loss of hearing and macular degeneration which brought her to near complete blindness. She "*walked humbly with her God*" when she was at meals having to ask what was in her plate and where was it positioned or where her beverage was, where her napkin had landed... If that's not "*walking humbly with her God*", I don't know what is. Anyone who sat with Louise at meals would undoubtedly agree that she did this with simplicity and graciousness.

As life was gradually ebbing away, we still had some sacred time to spend with Louise who was always up for a laugh, playing guessing games as to the hidden face under the mask which often required voice recognition, and just being present to her once she lost consciousness but remained steadfast for another week or so. I believe that in her determination, she knew her family would be by her side and she waited for that moment. That time arrived Saturday afternoon when her sister-in-law and three nephews, three grown men now, were by her bedside for their final farewell. Then, Saturday evening, October 9, 2021, Louise left us peacefully.

Thanks for the memories, Louise.
Rest in peace and continue "loving with tenderness". Amen.