

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Janet Winandy

(Sister M. Nicholas)

BORN: May 1937

ENTERED CONGREGATION: February 2, 1954

DIED: January 18, 2012

We gather here today to celebrate the life of a woman who brought sunshine into the lives of so many, our Sister Janet Winandy, known for her positive, compassionate and peaceful presence.

Janet was born to Nicholas Winandy and Grace Doerr in May 1937 in Gary, Indiana. She is the oldest of four children. She has two sisters, Susan and Roberta, and one brother Thomas. Her family moved to Phoenix, Arizona, when Janet was six years old due to her mother's frail health. The family lived near St. Mary's School, staffed by the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Janet spent eight years at St. Mary's School where she met our Sisters and was part of a multi-cultural student body.

In the spring of 1951 Janet was invited to take a trip with some other eighth graders to visit the aspirancy and postulancy at San Luis Rey that had opened in 1950. Janet entered the Congregation at San Luis Rey in 1954. Janet said in her own words, "The only time I saw my dad cry was when I boarded the train for Oceanside."

She did her postulancy at San Luis Rey, but joined the rest of her class in Dayton for the canonical year after which she returned to San Luis Rey for the remainder of her formation. She was given the name Sister Mary Nicholas. When she received her name in religion, Sr. Mary Nicholas, her father sent her a special telegram saying, "Congratula-

tions to Nicholas III." Janet made her final profession in 1959.

Janet has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of San Diego and a Masters in Education from San Diego State University. Her teaching experience took her to Denver where she spent ten years teaching at Saint Anne, Christ the King and Cure de Ars. Janet taught at St. Anthony School in Falls Church, Virginia and Our Lady of Grace, in El Cajon, California.

On a secondary level, she taught math and science at Bourgade H.S. in Phoenix, Arizona, and San Luis Rey Academy in California. There she also served as the principal and administrator. From 1980-1987 she served as Regional Director for the Western Region. In 1988 she returned to teaching math and science at Salpointe H.S. in Tucson, Arizona, after which she did a Sabbatical year at St. Stephen Priory in Dover, Massachusetts. For the past ten years Janet served as Administrative Assistant to the President and her council.

While she lived in Dayton, she was actively involved at Precious Blood Parish as a Lector, secretary for the parish pastoral council, and social justice committee. She helped with the Dorothy Day dinners and regularly attended the Homicide Prayer Vigils.

Within the Congregation, Janet has been very active on both Regional and Assembly committees, PBLC convocation planning, religious development, justice and numerous other committees.

Janet enjoyed reading, taking photo-

graphs, hiking, and folk dancing. She also loved to travel and write poetry. At the time of her Golden Jubilee, Janet wrote "My gratitude goes out to all the sisters in my life who have enriched me with their friendship. I also treasure each one of the class of 1954 and the many opportunities we've had to share community life and vacations together." One of her classmates said "Janet had the voice of an angel, the soul of a poet, and a heart of a lover."

I would like to read a poem entitled "Earthbound" that she wrote in 2002.

*Hold tenderly a handful of dirt
For you may be holding
The dust of yourself one day.
Who's to say
To whom this dust belonged
A piece of hair that was silver gray
The eyes of a friend,
Or yesterday's smile,
An aunt or uncle
Who've been gone awhile.
Coming or going
This prolific earth
Is either falling back
Or giving birth.*

In Janet's own words, "I see religious life as a life of justice measured by love ... living a life of compassion, kindness, and forgiveness, supporting one another when each other's "lights" grow dim."

Janet's own light burns brightly now as she shares eternal life with the God to whom she dedicated her life so faithfully.

— Sister Cecilia Taphorn, CPPS