

*Sister Therese Miller, BVM*  
*Wake Stories/Reflections*  
*Marian Hall Chapel, Nov. 30, 2016*

**Sister Mary Janine Wolfe, BVM**

I lived with Therese at Holy Cross in Chicago. We were both teaching second grade with over 45 children in each room. In the spring, we took the crowd of them by bus to the Brookfield Zoo. Now at Holy Cross, our lawn was about as big as a dining room table. We came through the gate at the zoo and the children saw this huge expanse of green and they took off—all of them! The two of us looked at each other and said, “How are we ever going to get these eighty-some children back together?” No problem. There was a fountain in the middle of the expanse. They ran around the fountain and came right back. We had a wonderful day.

**Sister Theresa McNerney, BVM (Grace Michele)**

I entered in 1950 with Therese. The welcome was beautiful; it was everything that Therese was. She was the kindest and gentlest person I can remember. In recent years when we walked past her door, we had to come in and get a tomato or she would take us out and show us her tomatoes. I don't have a lot of other recollection except for her kindness.

**Sister Kathryn Lawlor, BVM (John Laurian)**

I lived with Therese in the Circle Apartments. She was in the apartment with Sister Patricia Potok (Liberata) and I was in the apartment with Sister Mary Adele Henneberry. Every so often we would plan a gathering in apartment 940 D and have a big party. Of course, someone would have to bring the food so we would plot ways of getting people to bring food. This one time we said, “Let's have a chili cook-off,” hoping that someone would cook some chili. Sure enough Therese came with a big pot of chili that she had made. She looked around and said, “Where's the other chili?” We said, “We were hoping that when you got the message, you would be the one to bring the chili.”

**Sister Donna Schauf, BVM (Blanche)**

One week as a volunteer, I was working with Therese in the laundry. I heard from someone that she was very gentle and kind, but when the people upstairs sent the wrong things down the chute, she was not lovely and nice.

**Sister Therese Jacobs, BVM**

When Sister Margaret Mary Whelan (Agnésita) developed ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), it was very difficult to understand anything that she needed or wanted. Therese and Sister Mary Lois Dolphin were always there helping. Margaret Mary communicated by winking and blinking her eyes. Lois was quite good at it, but Therese was always there to do whatever was needed. We sang “Tis a Gift to Be Simple.” She certainly knew what great gift was—that it was better to give than to receive—and she lived it daily.

**Sister Therese Mackin, BVM (Jeremy)**

We always enjoyed the fact that we had the same name. Most of the time, people knew how to spell it correctly. The things I will recall are her lovely smile and the frequent wave of her hand when I would pass by her chair. She was a great lady with a beautiful smile. I will never forget her.

**Sister Mary McCauley, BVM (Mercedie)**

When I came into our chapel, I thought I would certainly have to say something about Therese's wonderful service especially during the years we served together here at Marian Hall. I think that has been well said in the reflection and in our prayer service. Maybe I will just add one other comment. I have a feeling that the candy cart should be called the "Therese Miller Memorial" because she absolutely loved those little candy bars and always had a stash in her room. We are going to miss going into her room and getting a little Butterfinger or Baby Ruth. To Therese's candy cart!

**Sister Donard Collins, BVM**

I had the privilege of living right next door to Therese in the Circle Apartments for about ten years. This is another chili story. Whenever she made chili, I always got a bowl. I said to Therese, "You absolutely make the best chili! What's your secret?" She hesitated a moment and then said, "Always put a little bit of garlic in the chili." True enough, when I remember to put a little bit of garlic in my chili, people always comment how good it is.

**Sister Audrey Juergens, BVM (Raymond Ann)**

I worked at Marian Hall for a number of years while Therese was in charge of the laundry there. Things at times could get intense at Marian Hall. Whenever that happened, I would go down to Therese. She would be pulling out the bed pads and I would fold them. Sometimes we talked; most times we didn't. When I went back upstairs, the intensity had resolved. Thank you, Therese.

**Sister Joan Stritesky, BVM (Magdaletta)**

I don't want the candy cart to be overlooked. We've talked about the laundry and the garden. All simple things as the song mentioned. I loved going into her room, bending down and seeing her gain her steadiness and then saying, "Mix them."

**Sister Carolyn Farrell, BVM (Lester)**

I didn't know Therese very well, but I remember having dinner with her and Sister Patricia Potok (Liberata) when they lived on South Grandview before moving to the Circle Apartments. It was a lovely evening. I enjoyed hearing about her fishing skills. Others can probably tell better stories than I, but I was amazed. When I looked at Therese, I never thought of her a fisher woman. I think that was another joy of her life.

**Sister Catherine Jean Hayen, BVM**

My fondest memories of Therese have been mentioned in the gardening. She absolutely loved the Joan Keleher Doyle Garden and the raised garden beds. She would be out there before the

last frost was gone ready to plant. She would nurture the seeds in her room and then planted them in the garden. She was there until the last tomato was picked. I'll assume that she is gardening in heaven.

**Emily Keys, Former Marian Hall Employee**

I loved Sister Therese. I worked at Marian Hall for a number of years. I was the last of the second shift to leave. When the night shift came on, they would bring the laundry carts up but wouldn't remember to take them back down to the laundry room. Therese met me one day and said, "Your floor is just the worst. We never have carts from your floor. We have no place to go with the laundry and have to keep looking at it."

I made a solemn promise that the last thing I would do before I left at 11:00 p.m. would be to make sure the carts were all brought back down and in the laundry room. I didn't want to incur her wrath again. One of her humorous stories, when I worked out in fitness would wear a t-shirt that said "Survived the Ostrich at Natural Bridge Wildlife Park in San Antonio." It had a picture of this huge ostrich towering over a car with its head inside at the treat bucket. That happened to my daughter and me when we were there. The ostrich came into the car and took the treats right out of our hands. Therese got the biggest charge out of that and we talked about it many times. She had the most wonderful sense of humor, but she had a stern sense of justice and right. I love you, Therese.