



**We remember
Sister Karlanne Hanna
1940-2009**

~ a Sister of Mercy for 51 years!

*Eulogy given on March 25, 2009
By Sheila Burke
(former member and long-time friend)*

My first memory of Sister Karlanne goes back to high school. When I was a sophomore, I decided to give debate a try. At that time, Sharon Hanna and Pat (Norita) Cooney were among the big shot senior debaters. What I remember about that brief experience (debate proving to be more work than I was interested in doing), was how kind and helpful Karlanne was - not what I expected from a lofty "upper classman." The kindness and helpfulness shown to me in those long ago days illustrate the care and concern for others that was central to Karlanne all her life.

She was born in Omaha on January 30, 1940, to Leo and Charlotte Hanna, the eldest of their four children. Her sisters, Peg and Ruth, and her brother, Ed, are with us today, as well as nieces and nephews and other family members. Karlanne graduated from Mercy High School in the spring of 1957 and entered the Sisters of Mercy in September of that year.

In the course of her 50-plus years in the community, Karlanne served in a variety of ministries. She taught students from junior high through college age, worked in the Provincial Office, at Catholic Health Corporation, in the finance office at Mercy High, in the library at College of Saint Mary, and finally at the medical library at Creighton University.

All of us who knew her were aware of the brilliance of her mind - her varied ministries are evidence of that, especially when you realize that so much of what she did was self-taught. But what speaks to me the most, as I look at the long list of things she did and places she served, is the vast number of people whose lives she touched. All of you here today are a testimony to that. At every stop along her life's journey, she formed bonds with so many people,

bonds of friendship and caring that continue to this day. What we celebrate about Karlanne today is not so much the work she did, as the person she was and the way she touched each of our lives.

In the telling of stories yesterday and last night, so many people mentioned her kindness. She was always willing to help anyone in need. I think that is what made her a good teacher - if you wanted to learn, she was happy and eager to help you. She was always moved by the pain and needs of other people. She wasn't much interested in discussions about compassion, she just wanted to help the person in front of her.

I think about the things she loved: playing bridge, especially duplicate bridge with her father; cheering for Big Red football; collecting all things Star Trek; doing competitive crossword puzzles; sitting quietly with her cats; and enjoying music of all kinds. From the traditional church music we learned in the novitiate, to cantering for Mass at St. Margaret Mary's Church, to performing with the world-renowned group, "Nun like us," she loved to sing. Just last week on St. Patrick's Day, there was a barbershop group singing here at the Villa, and she was harmonizing along with them.

She was a woman of many gifts and of great compassion. I'm not sure Karlanne always understood or believed how much people who knew her valued her goodness and her gifts. And now it seems that her passing came too soon, before we had time to say to her all that she meant to us. That makes us sad, of course. But she knows it now, and that should bring us comfort. She sees us with God's eyes and loves us with God's love from that place where there is no more sadness, no more tears, no more pain or sorrow, but only peace and joy and happiness for all eternity.