



**We remember
Sister Pat Scanlon
1923-2009**

~ a Sister of Mercy for 61 years!

Funeral Mass – Mercy Villa – March 3, 2009

Eulogy written by Sisters Helena Naviaux and Mary Mechtilde Hill and delivered by Sister Claudia Robinson

Mary Patricia (Pat) Scanlon was born on May 17, 1923, to William and Marie Scanlon in Kansas City, MO. She was one of a family of two boys and two girls; her two brothers, John and Bill preceded her in death; her sister JoAnn Becker and husband, Walter, of Tulsa, Okla., are with us this morning, along with their three daughters.

Pat and her family lived five houses from Holy Cross Church and School, and two blocks from Saint Agnes Academy, later called Glennon High School, where she graduated in 1941. She always said that the neighborhood where she grew up was their playground. Her best sports in high school were ice skating and basketball.

After graduating from high school, Mary Pat entered the nursing program at Providence Hospital in Kansas City, KS, where she graduated in 1944. After working a short time at Providence Hospital she decided to become an army nurse. She took her oath of office at Camp Carson, CO, in May of 1945 and was assigned to Winter General Hospital in Topeka, KS. After three months she received orders to report to the Port of Embarkation in New Orleans as part of a replacement unit for an overseas

assignment in the Philippines. Before she sailed, she received word that her mother was critically ill so she was given permission to return home. After her mother's death, Mary Pat reported back to Winter General Hospital until she was assigned to Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver where she worked until she left the army in 1946. She then went back to Providence Hospital to work.

It was during the next year when Mary Pat made a nurses' retreat that she thought about a vocation to the religious life. Having been with the Sisters of Mercy for 12 years of schooling, she felt that was where she belonged. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in Council Bluffs, IA on Sept. 8, 1947, and was finally professed in August 1953.

After her first Profession in March of 1950, Sister Pat took the name of Mary Rosine Scanlon, and was assigned to Saint Catherine's Hospital in Omaha as a staff nurse. At the same time she attended Creighton University to complete her BSN degree. A few years later, in 1953, she went to Saint Louis University to earn her master's degree in nursing education.

During this time she changed her religious name back to her baptismal name. Most of her ministerial life was spent in administration as director of education in nursing schools in Council Bluffs, Valley City, ND, Des Moines and Omaha.

In 1973, Sister Pat asked to go to Joplin, MO to investigate the area of pastoral ministry. She found that she liked this field of service and enrolled in the clinical pastoral education at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Kansas City, MO. There she was the only woman and the only Catholic. Never-the-less, she felt right at home. Sister Pat felt it was important to be properly trained and then spent a year of study at Trinity College in Washington, D.C., studying scripture.

From 1974 to 1987, Sister Pat served as director of pastoral services at Mercy Hospital in Denver, CO, and Mercy Medical Center in Durango, CO. In 1987, she and Sister Helena Naviaux went on a sabbatical at the Jesuit Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, MA.

She served at Saint John's Medical Center in Joplin, MO as a chaplain from 1988 until she retired in 1997. After that she continued to do volunteer work in the Pastoral Care Department until she transferred to Mercy Villa in April 2005. Many of us remember how she stayed involved in all kinds of activities here – swimming at the College of Saint Mary and taking walks around the grounds.

As Sister Pat's memory loss became more severe, she became more retiring at the Villa. She was realistic about her gradual lack of remembering and accepted it calmly as she had accepted God's Will all throughout her religious life.

In her words, "I feel a great sense of gratitude when I look back over my Mercy years of ministry and service. I have lived and worked with many wonderful Sisters. Together, as community, we continue to be blessed in many ways by our Divine Lord."

In closing, I would like to share with you one of her favorite prayers.

Master, how swift the years speed by!

How many dear ones passed away!

*Sometimes the steps are hard to take
that draws me close to Thee each day.*

*Often the road is set with thorns,
My heart is heavy with human fear.*

*But Thou didst climb so cruel a height,
Thy cross was harder yet to bear!*

So today as we celebrate the Mercy life of this good and faithful Sister of Mercy. We salute the leader of the band.

Suscipe

My God, I am yours for time and eternity.
Teach me to cast my whole self
into the arms of your loving Providence
with the most lively unbounded confidence
in your compassionate, tender pity.

Grant O Most Merciful redeemer,
that whatever you ordain or permit
may be always acceptable to me.
Take from my heart all painful anxiety.
Suffer nothing to afflict me but sin;
nothing to delight me but the joy
of coming into the presence of You,
my God, in your own everlasting kingdom.
Amen.

*In the cheerful and careful performance
of every part of our duty, our holiness consists.
-- Catherine McAuley*