

REFLECTION ON THE LIFE OF SISTER DIANE TEMPLE

June 29, 1941—August 23, 2013



Sister Diane Temple was born in Pittsburgh on June 29, 1941, the first child of Sidney Temple and Margaret Reis Temple. Her brothers are Paul and Mark; her sister is Phyllis. She attended Saint Anselm Grade School and Sacred Heart High School. While she was in high school, her family moved to Glenshaw and she traveled to school with her father who worked in East Liberty. After school, Diane often stopped to pray in Sacred Heart Church and then went to the library as she waited for her ride home.

As children, we liked to play at Diane's house since her mother provided an atmosphere in which we could be free and mess the place up a bit. Diane engaged in sports with the neighbor children but was always conscientious about her studies.

After graduation and before entering the community, Diane and I, along with Sister Mary Gerard (Sister Eleanor Dillon), our sponsor, and other students, were to visit Emmitsburg, Maryland. The pilgrimage fell through, so Diane and I took a trip in her old Studebaker to Lake Erie, Pennsylvania. Our staple food was peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Diane entered the Sisters of Charity on September 8, 1959. In community, Sister Diane was "generous and responsive." She saw the needs and responded to them. Her "group" remembers her with a small piece of fabric and a needle pinned to her habit so she could be ready to sew at any free moment. Imagine in 1960, we were making little clown dolls called "Woodsies" to help provide money to build the new novitiate, Doran Hall.

As Sister Diane grew in her life as a Sister of Charity, she remembered family and friends. Her sister Phyllis recounted her gift selections were simple but well thought out and appropriate for the recipient. One such item was a timer used for years until it "gave out."

Among the highlights of Sister Diane's ministry was serving in Korea. Sister Diane taught biology and English at Saint Joseph's High School for girls in Kang Jin. Her former student Mi Ran Surh, who now works at the Emmaus Community in Pittsburgh, said Sister Diane was famous for having the students do dissections. After talking to students of other schools, they were excited with the realization that they were unique in having this activity as part of their curriculum.

Diane's ministry often went beyond the classroom. In Korea she became aware of the impoverished condition of children in a nearby orphanage. Riding a bike, she took them snacks of hard boiled eggs and pots of soup laced with liver in an effort to get protein into their diet.

Diane likewise responded to a young woman, Miae Hwang, who had to leave Saint Joseph's school after her freshman year due to the death of her mother. The family moved to Seoul and Miae worked in a garment factory. She didn't have money for school. Diane was able to find a benefactor in Pittsburgh to provide for Miae's high school education and to help Miae go to the university.

Currently Miae lives in Vancouver, Canada. On August 8, 2013, she established **The Sister Diane Temple '69 Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund** at Seton Hill University. This Fund was created to provide assistance to students with financial need who have demonstrated the potential to succeed academically.

When Diane returned from Korea, she continued supporting the mission with her mother by sewing and selling toy animals, purses, walker bags, and many more items. Diane had a very special relationship with her mother.

Sister Diane's degrees in chemistry and medical technology prepared her for her education ministry both in Korea and the United States. She taught for nearly 18 years at Salpointe High School in Tucson, Arizona. A student remarked, "Sister Diane made class fun by relating materials to common interests in our lives." Sister herself said about her teaching, "My aim is to enable students to make wise decisions on choices made difficult by advances in technology."

In 2002, a former student of Salpointe High School, Nicholas Yardy, class of 1992, dedicated his doctoral dissertation to Sister Diane. He wrote, "This dissertation is dedicated to Sister Diane Temple without whom I would never have become a chemist."

While living at Caritas Christi, Diane continued to reach out to others with understanding and compassion as she had done her entire life. In January 2004, Diane was awarded the "Exercise Participant of the Month Award." She got along well with members of the Wellness Staff. Some of them remember her saying, "I enjoy what I call the 3 most important 'Cs' in life...*Chocolate, Cookies and Cats.*" You'll be happy to know one of the last things Diane ate was a chocolate sundae from Dairy Queen.

In Sister Diane's name and that of the Sisters of Charity, we thank her family, relatives, and friends who supported her with visits, phone calls, cards, and gifts during the years of her illness. We have been very inspired with your expressions of love.

There are many joyful things we remember about Sister Diane; we remember and admire her brilliance and dedication in her field of chemistry. Most importantly, Diane will leave those whose lives she touched a lasting legacy of charity.

Now Sister Diane, after years of suffering from Parkinson's disease, may you rest in God as you hear these words from the Gospel of Saint Matthew: "Come you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, ..."

*Funeral Liturgy Reflection
~Mary Price, SC
August 26, 2013*