REFLECTION ON THE LIFE OF SISTER MARY BROPHY

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On Friday 30th October God said to Mary… "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor Angels, nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sr. Mary Brophy has now seen the fulness of the love of God.

We come together this evening to remember our beloved Sister Mary Brophy. We offer sympathy to our Presentation family, to Mary's brothers, Leo and Kevin, sisters-in-law, Patricia and Mary; her nieces, nephews, grand and great grand nieces and nephews. In having had Mary so long in your lives, it is hard to imagine life without her physical presence.

Know that Mary loved you. She very often talked about you….where you were, what you were doing, how you were getting on. She was proud of you.

Mary was born on 25th November 1928 in Grand Falls, to Hannah Budgell and Leo Brophy. She was the eldest of a family of seven children …. four boys and three girls.

Mary joined our Presentation Congregation on 20th November 1952. She made her final commitment to the Presentation Way of Life on 15th July 1960. This means that Mary lived the mission and ethos of Nano Nagle, our Foundress, for 76 years. A lifetime of commitment and service to the poor and oppressed. At the time of her Profession of Vows, she received the Religious name of Sister Mary Edmund Leo.

Among many things, Mary was first and foremost a teacher. She taught in Harbour Main, Placentia, St. Patrick's, Stephenville, Renews, Deer Lake, Port au Port, Freshwater, Gander, Buchans; she spent some years in the office of Treasurer in some of our convents and here in the Generalate. Mary often told me how she understood finance, budgets….and this was in her knowledgeable finance

expertise!! I think she was trying to tell me something! Mary in living out her call as a Presentation Sister certainly did the round of the island. She went where the need was most.

Mary's health declined over the past few years. As time went on she became more helpless. She required more and more care. The Nursing Staff were wonderful with her. As we all know, Mary had no hesitation in speaking her thoughts. One of the nurses told me that one day she had her hair done at the cost of $100. She came to work the following morning, and Mary called her into her room. Mary remarked how Nurse's hair was requiring a "doing up"! Nurse replied that she had paid a $100 to have it done the day before. Mary's response was "Well you need to ask them for a refund"!!!!

Mary was a woman of prayer. She loved her Rosary. So many times, when visiting her she would have the beads in her hands. It appeared to me she got comfort out of just holding them.

I think Mary received a special grace in the last few days of her life. Only last week, when she really began to decline, she appeared to be afraid of something. She did not want to be left alone. And she wasn't. The Sisters here are remarkable in sitting with Sisters in their last days. When Fr. Ray came to anoint her, she displayed a frown and a fear. I thought she would object. But suddenly I could see her face relaxing, and weak and all as she was, she did her very best to raise her hand and bless herself. From then on, she rested in peace. And in the end died peacefully. As we say…she slept into heaven. She heard and accepted the invitation of God:

"Come, Mary! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world"….ever since you were in the mind of God.

Mary, we thank you for walking with us in community. We thank you for your huge contribution to our Presentation Congregation. May you now walk with us, guiding us, and helping us along our journey.

And Mary, till we meet again …. may God hold you in the palm of his/her hand. God bless Mary.