



Sister looked upon her sufferings as a sacrifice that she could offer for others. At the beginning of Lent last year, she had a PICC line inserted. In regards to that, she said, "I now have my 'treasure' in place, a special present from Our Lord for this Lent." This past November she told me, "I'm going to offer up each night during this month for a soul in Purgatory. I had been offering it for living people, but for November I'll try to 'put out the flames' for one soul each night. This will help me too, especially during those really long nights."

Sister often expressed her joy about being a Daughter of Mary. During our last girls' retreat here at Round Top, Sister said, "Years ago, I was on the very first girls' retreat, and it was during this retreat I was given my vocation. I've

been making a kind of gratitude week for myself to tell Our Lord how happy I am that He called me to religious life." On another occasion, she wrote, "Our vows dictate our lives. And these are opportunities to say, 'Yes Lord, I am all Thine. Do with me as Thou wish.'"

Sister's charity was often manifested in her concern for others. She made frequent trips to the hospital in New York City and returned each time with a list of prayer intentions from the many patients she met. She was always concerned with the comfort of those around her and showed gratitude for even the least service rendered to her. At recreation she was interested in all the Sisters and it was her delight to listen to others. Even during the last days of Sister's life, she expressed her care for the sufferings of others. Knowing her death would bring me much sorrow, she frequently said to me, "*Sursum Corda*" (lift up your heart). Her last words to me were, "Everything will be all right, Mother."

### Sister's Advice

When Sister Maria Dolorosa gave her first conference to the Sisters of the newly established Juniorate, she encouraged them to be "a light to enlighten, a model to edify, a pillar to uphold." Sister herself was all of these. The advice she gave us during her life continues to be a light, the example she left lives on as a model, and the strength of her vocation remains a pillar to uphold our Congregation. I and all the Sisters are blessed to have had her as our Sister and our friend.

Thank you for your concern for Sister, especially during her illness. It was a great consolation for her to know that so many people were praying for her. Before her death, she asked that prayers be said for the repose of her soul. May our dear Sister Maria Dolorosa rest in peace.

In the Sacred Heart,

*Mother Mary Bosco, F.M.*

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*Sister Maria Dolorosa (far left) served on the General Council for eighteen years.*