

RENEE BAUERLY EULOGY

Thank you for coming this morning in joining with us to celebrate the life of Renee and to thank God for the gift of this wonderful woman who touched all of our lives. Each of us has our own memories and stories about Renee, which hopefully we will share with one another later on at the reception. With the help from reflections from many whose lives were touched by Renee, I share these thoughts:

Renee was born in Le Mars, Iowa, on February 27, 1942. The younger of two daughters born to Arthur George Bauerly and Eva Kathryn Sullivan, Renee died on April 19, 2026. She is predeceased by her parents, and sister Karen, her brother-in-law Stan, and her nephew Michael. She is survived by her two nieces Renee Savage and Barbara Beainy.

The Bauerly family moved to California and Renee grew up in Downey. She graduated from Pius X High School, Downey, in 1960, and some years later entered the Daughters of Mary and Joseph. She professed her First Vows in 1967.

Renee came from a very creative and generous family: her parents ran a popular restaurant, known especially for their delicious pies; her sister became a professional ice skater, delighting audiences with her graceful movements and intricate dances. While in the Novitiate, Renee's creative skills became known, and she studied Art for a few years. She loved to work with rocks and soil, and soon Renee spent many hours designing gardens in Cherry Valley and Rancho Palos Verdes.

Renee was a gentle, kind and compassionate presence, blessed with many talents which she generously shared for 55 years of ministry in Los Angeles and 7 years in Burundi and Uganda, Africa. Her dominant talent resided in her hands. Her potter's creations reflect her contemplative spirit. As a landscape artist, she has left a legacy of peace and beauty in our gardens at Mary and Joseph Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes. Numerous retreatants and others will always remember her healing hands as a Massage Therapist.

Renee's heart was in Africa. In 1982, she joined the DMJ staff at a rehabilitation center for physically-challenged children in Burundi, Africa. *"To those children, she was not only a missionary; she was warmth on difficult days, a voice that said YOU MATTER, and hands that proved it. She saw in every child not a condition or a limitation, but a soul full of dignity and worth loving completely."* That comment from a colleague captures Renee's whole character and her approach to whomever she

ministered. Sadly, her time in Burundi was cut short by political strife and her visa was not renewed. However, Renee moved on to Uganda where she began immediately to find projects to express her artistic soul. She dedicated her time and energy to redesigning two chapels. Her love and respect for Earth found expression in her use of local materials to transform small rooms into serene and prayerful spaces.

After her return from Africa, Renee continued using her gifts in her ministries at Mary and Joseph Retreat Center, living her life in quiet service to others. It was always a joy to see how Renee refreshed and renewed the gardens and landscaping. Renee enhanced the retreatants' experience, offering her healing, therapeutic touch with her massage therapy.

When Renee's health began to decline, she moved into Marian Residence, our Retirement Center. Although no longer able to continue her ministries, Renee's spirit of generosity and hospitality was not quenched. Her kindness continued to be felt in the simple and sincere ways she reached out to others.

Renee's life was a testimony of love in action: a quiet but powerful witness to what it means to serve God through serving others.

Renee, we thank you for the gift you have been to all of us in so many ways. We pray that now may you rejoice in the unique, unimaginable Beauty of the Risen Christ's Kingdom of Peace and Love. Amen.