

## General Comments about the Lay Sisters-Sr. Felicé Wright

The Lay Sisters. were much loved and appreciated by everyone. Sr. Marie Eulalie discontinued the practice of having two separate groups of Choir nuns and Lay Sisters immediately after the first part of Vatican II, at the same time as our Constitutions were revised.

Some, when they entered, opted to become Lay Sisters. simply because they did not wish to become involved in teaching or administration, or because their education prior to entering Religious Life would have been insufficient.

Their habit was a half-scapular which was tucked under a black apron. Their rings were silver, not gold.

They met for recreation separately from the Choir nuns in a room in the basement. One of the Choir nuns who was in charge of them would join them.

They also ate their meals separately in the basement.

When the Choir nuns slept in dormitories with the pupils, the Lay Sisters. slept in a separate dormitory.

The Lay Sisters. had portress duties and looked after the teachers' staff room and refectory

They were largely responsible for the cooking, laundry work and heavier cleaning, e.g. the toilets, polishing the floors and furniture, and washing the windows.

The Lay Sisters. were treated courteously and were much valued by the particular Choir nuns in school where their work overlapped. There were of course a few exceptions, but they were very few.

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### Incidental Memories of Our Lay Sisters

#### NORBERT HURST

Devoted to Sr. Mary Cuthbert and the cat  
Well-read before her eyesight deteriorated  
Very humble and a great prayer.

She looked after the chickens and stoked the boiler at the weekends

Kept her room as neat as a new pin. Everything was in  
Hardly had anything. A model of holy poverty  
Novices very fond of her



#### MARY McAVOY

Scottish and short-tempered!

Hated cooking.

Retired to Middlesbrough and enjoyed a new apostolate  
taking Holy Communion to the housebound



absolute order.

#### AMBROSE NORRIS

Stored anything and everything under her bed, including multiple pairs of shoes ... even some ham that went bad!

Loved to be taken out in a chair in Herne Bay and would choose the biggest Italian ice cream for a treat!

#### ANDREW LITTLEJOHN

Was quite disturbed after an accident in the laundry that damaged her nerves.

Very observant from the sidelines and knew a lot of what was going on!



**OGILVIE McKEEFRY**

A bit odd  
Good example. Always kind. Worked really hard.  
Unsung goodness  
Would wash the budgie in Herne Bay with a wet flannel  
Walked into the sea in Scarborough in her habit, and was rescued by a member of the public

**AGNES FOLLEY**

A very refined lay Sister  
Felt being a lay Sister was a vocation and should not be inferior vocation.  
Saw it as a real service.  
Felt we lost something when we didn't have lay Sisters  
Helped run the parish Girls Guide group.



seen as an  
any more.

**FELICITY ROMMENS**



Flemish  
Just lovely. Spoke broken English.  
Just wanted to serve and look after people. Saw the laundry in that way.  
She took charge of the kitchen when the regular cook was away.  
Advice she gave novices when she was invited to tea in the Novitiate: "Never neglect your prayer"  
Childlike appreciation of things.  
e.g. marvelling at the inside of a transistor radio Felicé was mending for her.

With her broken English she shortened words "My Sis", or muddled words:  
Dr. Finlay's Facebook became Dr. Finlay's Bookcase!  
'My bedroom' became 'My bed'

**ANNETTE BURNS**



Used to make toffee apples and coconut fudge, and sell it to pupils to raise funds.  
Devoted to Mary Constance.

**COLETTE ANNE McLEOD**

Suffered from severe depression.  
Involvement in Charismatic Renewal helped her enormously  
Had delusions of grandeur: Once when she was going to Scotland to her family she went to the community of another Order and said she was the Mother General !

Was very popular with the staff in the Care Home, and they loved her.  
Had a mind of her own.  
Was an official 'Lollipop Lady' for a long time helping school children cross the main road safely  
Lived to be 100

#### KEVIN CONNELLY

A treasure. Almost blind.  
She crept along the corridors, hugging the walls, because of  
Hated water and had to be persuaded to wash!  
Very tiny. Very sweet.



her poor sight.

#### WILFRIDA HARRISON

Oldest lay Sister - over 90.  
Invalid for a long time and novices had to bed-bath her.  
Sr. Lennie was her niece.  
They were both rightly proud that they came from a Recusant family

#### ANTONY McGILLICUDDY



Sacristan.  
Always slipping out and going down to Croydon.  
They never knew where she was and what she would come back with.  
She used to beg in Alders. Came back one day with a pair of size 8 shoes for Felicé!  
Very thin. Only had  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a stomach, yet continued to eat what upset her especially apple pie, and then would be doubled up with pain afterwards.

#### PHILOMENA CHANDLER

Was in Belgium during the war. Would often accompany Sisters going over to Belgium.

#### BERNADETTE KEARNS



A great example. Bedridden.  
Quiet and never complained.  
Didn't like to see loose hairs on her nightclothes and would remove them one by one.  
Liked her dinner to be swimming in gravy

### ITA CRONIN

She had no confidence in herself  
Was the first DMJ to die in the Nursing Home.  
If she had a pain it was always "pure agony"  
Would answer the phone and say there was nobody there.



### ALENE HOGG

She would repeatedly slide from her chair onto the floor, so the Sisters had to keep picking her up!

### SABINE FLOOD

Was portress when Goretti was at school  
Always nice to everybody.

### JANE BLAIR

After war whilst there was still rationing, she and Mary Brigid always did the shopping and would give Goretti something to take home each weekend.  
Had a stroke  
When she was buried there was confusion at the cemetery: A priest's site was opened by mistake and so she was buried with the priests.

### EUSEBIA SLATER

Very crippled. Goretti had to put her to bed every night  
Always went round with a cushion

### EPHREM ROUTLEDGE

Quite a character.  
Couldn't bear draughts. If too cold she'd wrap her scapular over her head.

### BENEDICT STEVENSON



Always known as 'Ben'.  
Cook in Scarborough and Merrow Grange.  
Loved to take care of everybody. Very welcoming.  
Anyone who came to the back door would get a sandwich and drink.  
Cooked lovely Jubilee and feastday meals.  
Had very little in her room. Always said she didn't need anything  
Never complained despite a bad hip which caused her to walk with a pronounced limp

### JOSEPH GREAVES and KIERAN AHERN

Lovely people. Always very kind to everyone. Very quiet  
Joseph went to sleep after tea one afternoon and woke up in heaven !

Felicity went in to collect a tea tray one day and said “Hallo Jo”, and it was answered with a deathly silence !

MALACHY DOHERTY

Cook in Rydes Hill.

Every day at Evening Prayer she would pray for  
Northern Ireland

