

## Eulogy for Sr. Lois Claiborne

April 9, 1931 – December 12, 2023

Good morning. Thank you all for coming to this celebration of Lois' life. We are joined today by Lois' sister, Carol, and her niece, Cathie. We will also be joined by her grand nephew, David, and his wife Cynthia, and their children: Bella, David, and Ester. To all of them, my sincere condolences. The loss of Lois has been a very difficult one for them.

Lois Amelia Claiborne was the eldest daughter of Carl H. Claiborne and Renee A. (Lewis) Claiborne. Pre-deceased by her parents, and nephew Mark Quinn. Lois has a younger sister, Carol Montejano, nieces, Vicki and Cathie, a nephew, and several great and great-great grand nieces and nephews. Lois was a native of Trenton, New Jersey. When her family moved West by car, they slowly moved across the country -- just the four of them—thousands of miles.

Lois entered the Daughters of Mary and Joseph in 1950. She took her first vows in 1953. So this is her **70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee year!**

As I review Sr. Lois' varied ministries, I note something that attests to her adaptability. She has had a rather "checkered" ministry pattern, or to put it in Biblical terms, she has worn a "coat of many colors" Her talents have benefited a very diverse set of ministries and the people who have been served by them. Those who have known Sr. Lois indicate that she has been both very personable and very effective in all of them.

Sr. Lois has held the following positions: Elementary School Teacher, Principal, Assistant Principal, Retreat Center Staff Member, Medical Secretary, Parent Education Instructor (with emphasis on infants), Elementary School Religious-Education Coordinator, Parish Prayer Group Leader, Clerical Assistant, and in her retirement, a Volunteer at the Claretian Tape Ministry office -- working with Fr. John Hampsch, CMF. Sr. Lois loved taking calls from persons wanting prayers for challenging life difficulties.

Various ministries took Sr. Lois to many California cities: San Francisco, La Crescenta, Sepulveda, Rancho Palos Verdes, Santa Monica, and West Los Angeles. In all those places she was known for her gentle manner and her cooperative spirit.

It would not surprise anyone who knew Sr. Lois that the ministry she most cherished was working with infants and their parents at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica. That experience really stole her heart! Sr. Lois' coat of many colors would need to include an emblem with that ministry in a prominent place. At St. John's, she loved to walk with a sick infant in her arms, maybe one with colic or one whose mother was, sadly, too sick to hold her own child.

Some years ago, Lois was admitted into the Memory Care program at Nazareth House. She was given this wonderful bedroom with a picture window that spanned its entire width. One has to understand Sr. Lois' love of squirrels; she owned squirrel Tee

shirts, squirrel sweatshirts, and squirrel figurines. From this window she was able to observe squirrels running, jumping, and engaging in various squirrel antics. This was a marvelous pastime for her. Her years at Nazareth House were peaceful given the loving care of the Sisters of Nazareth and their many dedicated staff members.

Lois had a ritual while at Nazareth House to which she looked forward each night. She anticipated a phone call from her sister, Carol, as the two of them have been very close and have faithfully supported one another in prayer.

On behalf of all the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, a very BIG THANK YOU to the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth for the work of your sisters and your dedicated lay staff in making our dear Sr. Lois feel so at home and so beautifully cared for while in your memory care program.

Because of Sr. Lois' current need for a skilled nursing Facility, she has been residing at Marycrest Manor in Culver City. Sr. Lois has been cheerful, has not been prone to complaining, and even now, I believe, has the deep spirituality that has motivated and energized her as a Daughter of Mary and Joseph.

On behalf of all the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, a very BIG THANK YOU to Sr. Veronica and all the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart as well as to your lay staff for the marvelous care you have provided for our dear Sr. Lois. Special thanks to Sr. Lucy who has facilitated our care conferences. Special thanks also to Sr. Mary Ignatius who has seen that Sr. Lois has received Holy Communion every day. She has noted that after receiving the host, Sr. Lois appears to go into a deep period of prayer. Sr. Lois was given such a warm welcome by the sisters at Marycrest Manor that from the start, she relaxed into being there. I have rarely seen her so happy as the first day she was transferred to Marycrest from Southern CA Hospital at Culver City. Special thanks also to Kathy, the head nurse, who has always kept me updated on Sr. Lois' health.

Dear, dear Lois. We will miss you. We have all been blessed to have had you in our lives. May you find eternal rest in the loving arms of our God. AMEN. Alleluia.