



***Sr. Dominic Marie Cormier
was called to new life
on April 2, 2014
in her 79th year of religious life.***



**Sr. Maxyne D. Schneider gave the following reflection
at the Liturgy of Christian Burial:**

On the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, 40 days after his birth, we read of the Prophetess Anna that she never left the Temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer day and night. Luke's Gospel says of the occasion that "at the moment she came to greet Jesus and his parents, she began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem." How did she know? Some years ago at a day of prayer the presenter spoke of Anna as one "whose walls were made porous through prayer." This is what allowed her to recognize the infant Messiah in the Temple.

Walls made porous through prayer – this is how I think of Sr. Dominic, a truly holy woman whose latter decade of life was spent in our Health Care Center, truly at prayer throughout the day.

I first met Sr. Dominic when I was Area Councilor some 25 years ago in the Worcester Diocese. By then Sr. Dominic had completed her teaching ministry, much of it at St. Stephen's in Worcester, but also at other schools in the Worcester, Springfield and Providence Dioceses. She loved poetry and good jokes. Humor was treasured, and she was an inveterate reader. When we met, Sr. Dominic was working in the regional elder service agency in Uxbridge, Tri-Valley Elder Services, the counterpart of our local WestMass Elder Care, because continuing to help support the Congregation was important to her. We from time to time would go out for a sandwich at lunch and would catch up on life. We both enjoyed it, and for me it became one of those truly treasured parts of leadership, the opportunity to get to know some of our sisters whose paths we might not otherwise cross, a chance to know a bit of someone's beautiful soul.

Sr. Dominic, baptized with her mother's name, Anastasia, given her father's name, Dominic, in community, and known in her family as Rita, had warm feelings for her family and her friends. After the death of her brothers, Francis, Joseph and Burton, it was her sister-in-law Lucy who

was a family contact. She cared about her nephews and niece and treasured their visits. Here at the Mont she quietly became someone loved and admired by staff and Health Care residents. She was often asked by people to pray for their loved ones. Perhaps like me they sensed that this holy woman's prayers were seriously rendered and surely likely to be heard by God. Praying for priests by name in a special way for their well being and for the goodness of their ministry was important to Sr. Dominic. She most recently adopted Fr. Michael Wood, today's celebrant, as a special prayer partner and spoke of him often.

In her last ten years of life, spent in the Health Care Center, she continued to live fully. She helped to organize and run a prayer group that met daily. She loved the art activities and her room was brightened with the pictures she painted of birds, flowers and scenery. You saw some of them on display at the wake. As her eyesight worsened, she still read using large-print books, adding magnifying glasses when large print alone no longer sufficed. She loved her mobility and there is a story about her electric wheelchair that is associated with a now missing stained glass window pane in the door to St. Joseph's Chapel. Seems to me that I heard something relating to speed limits for motorized wheelchairs!

During the past few years as her health continued to decline, Sr. Dominic became an example of how to accept change and loss graciously, but with honest feeling. In this past week as Sr. Dominic's health failed rapidly, from nurses, aides and physician came the spontaneous statements of how they admired her, loved her, found it a privilege to care for her. A young aide, Alex, came to her bedside just after her death on Wednesday to sing to her as she used to sing to her as she cared for her. Can anyone doubt the power of living our mission till the end of life?... or the fact that just by being we can be in ministry? Sr. Dominic's walls, made porous through prayer, allowed her to see people well in spite of poor sight, allowed her to let people into her own heart. Right through the pores of her being one could sense the Presence of our God. Sr. Dominic, Anastasia, Rita, may you enjoy God's Presence, face to face, absorbing through your wonderfully porous soul the fullness of God's being. May you continue to do what you have done for us for so many years; i.e., bring the concerns of all of us who loved you, absorbed right into your being, before our God.