
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Georgianna Glose, OP

(S. Helen Mary)

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, April 28, 2020, our dear Sister Georgianna Glose was welcomed into the fullness of life by the God she loved and served so well. Georgianna was 73 years old and had been an Amityville Dominican for 54 years.

Helen and Rudolph welcomed their baby daughter into this world on December 1, 1946. Big brother Steve, 6 years old, named his baby sister after a favorite storybook character. They lived in Astoria where Georgianna attended St. Joseph School; however, before she started school she had developed polio, and her mother was told that Georgianna would never walk again. Helen Glose replied, "My daughter will walk again." She applied warm compresses every 2 hours and massaged life back into Georgianna's legs.

The family moved to North Massapequa, and when Georgianna was 10 years old, she became a big sister to baby Katherine. Three years later Michael was welcomed into the family. The Catholic faith and education were very important to Georgianna's parents. They maintained their Slovak traditions and instilled a strong sense of responsibility and social justice in their children. It was there that Georgianna developed her love for reading, gardening and crocheting. These became lifelong pastimes and her siblings' children and grandchildren each received a handmade sweater, hat, booties and blanket for their christenings. She made sure that her sister and brother, nieces and nephews valued education and supported them in all their endeavors.

Georgianna attended Queen of the Rosary Academy in Amityville where she excelled in speech and debate. Not surprisingly one of the debate topics was health care for the elderly. After



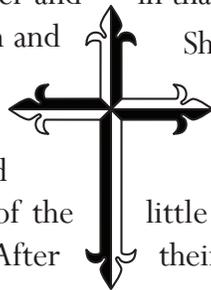
"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
- 2 Timothy 4:7

graduation she worked for a year at New York Life Insurance Company where she made lifelong friends. Georgianna asked her former teacher S. Liguori (Marion Vining) to sponsor her into the community. She entered in 1965 as part of the Marigold Set. A year later she was invested and received the name Sister Helen Mary.

Her first ministry assignment was to St. Rose of Lima School in Massapequa where she taught 5th grade. After class she got into the black station wagon with several other sisters and traveled to Molloy College. When the Congregation began self-placement, Georgianna moved to Fort Greene in Brooklyn where she had spent several summers working with our sisters. This "salt of the earth" woman devoted almost fifty years to the people of God in Brooklyn.

In 1973 she set up a telephone reassurance service coordinating a staff of volunteers who would call, on a daily basis, seniors who lived alone. She asked for and received financial help from a number of our convents to cover the large monthly phone bill! In the 1980s, Georgianna served as Executive Director of the Brooklyn Borough-wide Interagency Council on the Aging. For years she traveled to Albany with groups of senior citizens to lobby for better health care. In 1999 she was elected president of the Mid-Atlantic Consortium for Human Services and served in that capacity for several years.

She organized Grandparents Support Groups where seniors who were raising their grandchildren could come together for mutual support. Other seniors took care of little ones who needed extra love and support while their parents were working. She started an Honor



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Group of young people who were eager to learn about their city government. Together they traveled to Albany to learn firsthand how things worked.

Georgianna was teaching and studying herself while all of this was happening. She earned a Master's degree from Hunter College and received a Doctorate in Social Welfare from CUNY. She remained very close and attentive to her mother and frequently drove her to Pennsylvania to visit family. In addition, she played an active role in striving to bring justice to victims of clerical sexual abuse.

Almost 25 years ago she founded Fort Greene SNAP (Strategic Neighborhood Action Partnership) which served the residents of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and surrounding neighborhoods. The mission was to help residents understand and learn the tools that could empower them to take control of their lives and make positive decisions. This was accomplished through computer classes, resume writing and numerous and varied workshops.

While serving as Executive Director at SNAP and spending countless hours applying for grants and other financial help, Georgianna taught several classes at New York City Technical College. Her students became involved in a local shelter for families in the former Cumberland Hospital. Under her guidance they researched the care being given and unearthed

multiple problems including the infestation of rodents and the distribution of outdated food. Their efforts and photographs made it to *The New York Times*, and changes took place.

Georgianna received numerous awards from various groups over the years and while she appreciated the recognition because it highlighted the needs of the community, she never wanted recognition for herself. Her focus was always on the people she loved and served so well.

She will be sorely missed by her family, especially Katherine and Michael, her friends and her sisters in community, especially Sister Sally Butler, as well as the people of Fort Greene. These words from three of her students seem to echo what is felt by so many of us:

“Dr. Glose was such a beacon of hope, a social justice warrior and just the best, most loving person,” said April.

“I lost one of my heroes today,” commented Samuel.

“She always put a smile on my face,” said Ayesha.

May this gentle woman, who wore herself out for the people she loved, rest in peace. Georgianna desired to be cremated and because of the backup due to COVID-19, funeral arrangements will be sent out at a later date.
