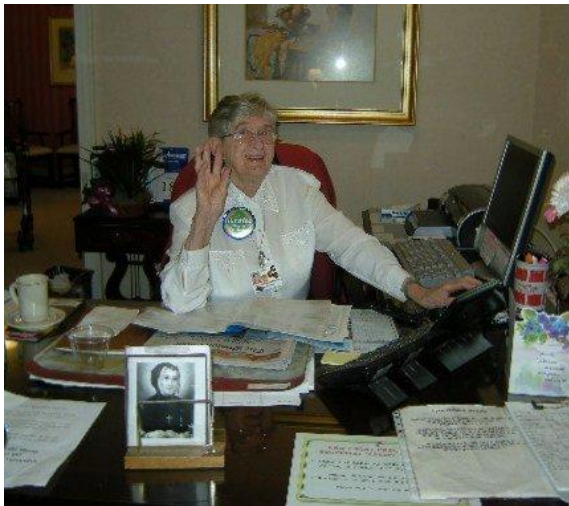


A Sincere Farewell, But Not Good Bye!

SISTER THERESE LAPOINTE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON MANY



Tuesday, January 18th, was a bittersweet day at Maristhill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, as friends, family and staff bid farewell to Sister Therese LaPointe.

The facility's receptionist, who has worked at Maristhill for the past twenty-three years, was finally retiring, at the age of 85.

Sister Therese – fondly referred to as “Sister T” – was born in Salem, Massachusetts. “Which is why I’m so bewitching,” she often joked! One of five children, both Therese and her younger brother became Marist Missionaries.

Sister “T” entered the convent at age 26, having traveled to Europe and seeing “a bit of the world first.” She felt a strong call to the religious life, although she quipped, “At 26, I had to do something.”

For the next thirty-six years, that “something” included mission work in New Guinea and Peru. She returned to the United States at the age of 62, not to retire, but to start a second career as Maristhill's receptionist.

With the convent right next door, her “commute” was an easy one, and for many years, Sister “T” walked briskly across the parking lot to her full-time position manning the front desk at Maristhill. Only after she turned 80 did she decide to cut her hours back to four days a week.

Her Positive Influence Extended to Many, & Will Carry On...

A familiar face to families, friends, volunteers and staff, she was a warm and welcoming presence to those who visited, worked and lived at the facility, and her friendly telephone demeanor endeared her to many others beyond building and grounds. Her feisty sense of humor brightened many a day.

The decision to retire was a difficult one. At the farewell gathering, Sister “T” mused about what she might do with her free time.

One of the Marist Sisters in attendance at the celebration laughed. “There will be plenty for you to do,” she told Sister “T.” “Washing the floors, cleaning the bathrooms... Just because you’ve retired from Maristhill doesn’t mean you’ve retired from the Marist Sisters!”

