

**Sister Mary Terese Rink, BVM (Lumina)**  
**Wake Stories/Reflections**  
**Marian Hall Chapel, Aug. 19, 2017**

**Sister Donard Collins, BVM**

I had the privilege of living with Terese in Memphis, Tenn., many, many years ago. I believe it was her first mission. Terese always sang a song that she called the National Korean Anthem. She would do pitch singing through the whole thing. One day I asked her, "What are the words to that song?" She said, "Goodbye my darling. Goodbye my darling. Do not forget your shoes and stockings." I also had the privilege of being with Terese the night she was taken into the emergency room. She was as gracious as the day is long. The doctor said to her, "I see that you have asthma." "Yes," she said. "Since childhood?" "For a long time," she said. He said, "Do you also have COPD?" She looked a little puzzled, looked at him and said, "What is the difference?" Gratefully, the doctor smiled.

**Sister Anne Buckley, BVM (St. Edwin)**

I knew Terese at Wright Hall. I worked there and she was living and working there. She also worked at Blessed Sacrament and was so faithful. That was a long trip from Wright Hall. She would go there to teach young adults who had dropped out of school. She was so dedicated to them. No matter what the weather was, there she would be. She had to go up the stairs of the house where she taught. She was always very concerned about them and we would talk about each one when she got back in the car to go home. Thanks, Terese.

**Sister Dolores Kramer, BVM (Jeanne Michele)**

Teresa Rink was a person of great personal integrity. She was very, very bright, wise and mature, even as a young sister. She never criticized or found fault in anyone. She was prayerful. Father Dave Hassel, S.J. was her spiritual director for many years. When she was young, she spoke with a lisp. As a young sister, she had that corrected through speech therapy. This was evident by how perfectly she spoke and how carefully she enunciated every syllable. She taught high school English and later in life, she worked in government programs helping the poor and underprivileged get grants. Terese was a very good woman, a wonderful BVM. I feel blessed to have been her friend.

**Sister Mary Jo Keane, BVM (Martin Mary)**

I have different personal memories of Terese. I was kept here after profession to perform some duties. Terese was here teaching the novices and postulants. We became friends when we went for walks together. Later, she began to tutor me; she was an excellent tutor. When she went to Chicago, she was wonderful at hospitality. When Wright Hall had big celebrations, she made sure that those people who did not live at Wright Hall were invited to the festivities. I will never forget Good Fridays. She went to Wright Hall for liturgy and I went to the Madonna della Strada Chapel at Loyola University. We would meet and walk about five miles. That was a ritual. I am grateful for Teresa's friendship.

**Sister Sue Rink, BVM (Michaela)**

There are only two Rinks in the BVM community and, interestingly, both of us were here at the same time. I've enjoyed some of her candy, which was delivered to me, and she probably some of my flowers and candy that were delivered to her. We never really got to know each other too well. She was a great person to check on her family. She wrote a marvelous genealogy and nowhere in there could she find me. I have a great admiration for her. I'm sure what you'll hear today will just reinforce the fact that she was an excellent teacher and a fine BVM.

**Sister Anne Buckley, BVM (St. Edwin)**

Speaking of her genealogy, she spent so many hours, weeks and months going down to the Newberry Library in Chicago and then coming here to her roots in Iowa. She did the most fabulous family history that I've ever seen. She worked at it for many years. It has wonderful photos. If you would like to see it, it is in the Motherhouse library. It is a work of art.

**Pat Petrzelka, Niece**

There are a lot of nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews here today. It's great hearing these stories. We brought the book with us. It is actually the encyclopedia for our family. We pulled it out last night while trying to figure out something about our brother Matt because nobody knows much about him except what is in the book. It's 417 pages long. She loved doing it and put a lot of time into it. Thank you all for being part of her family.

**Sister Teri Hadro, BVM**

A long time ago when I was either a novice or a postulant, those of us who entered with some college studies didn't take rhetoric. We took a course in Shakespeare taught by Terese. As postulants, we were all trying to learn proper decorum for newly minted sisters. We were quiet and well-behaved until we got to Shakespeare. Terese insisted that we read Shakespeare as written. As you know, some of his characters were fairly untutored in proper English. We found ourselves saying words, some of which we didn't understand or know, perhaps in the class of four-letter words, out loud. We did so with red ears.

Fast forward about 30 years. I was working in the Division of Genetics at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. I called the Department of Child and Family Services one day to pursue a conversation with a caseworker for one of my patients. I simply asked for the caseworker for the child and gave the child's record number. After about two minutes, a voice came on the phone and I was sitting there saying, "I know this voice." Sure enough, it was Terese. What an amazing reunion after 30 years. She was so tender and so caring for those children and a great help to me.

**Deacon Nick Simon, Cousin**

We live in Illinois about halfway between Wright Hall and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Many times Sister would stop and have lunch. Talking about her trips to do heraldry research, sometimes she would stay at our house while she would go see all the records from nearby counties. We had many holiday celebrations with her at my mother's house.

At our family gatherings, we talk about when Mary Terese had her 25th celebration at Wright Hall. Some of the things that happened were rather historic. I won't get into them at this time, but we still have some great laughs about all the fun we had with the BVMs at Wright Hall. We were her guests at Wright Hall a few times. We asked her to pick a restaurant. The Ethiopian restaurant was quite unique and quite tasty, but at the Tai restaurant, the coolest thing on the menu was the hottest thing I had ever eaten in

my life. We are glad that she was able to stay with us and we treasure our relationship with Mary Terese over the years.

**Maggie Mahern, Great niece**

Talking about holiday celebrations, Aunt Mare would come to my grandma's house for Christmas from Chicago or we would pick her up from Dubuque. One of the times she came when I was younger, I must have been playing Santa, so she sat on my lap. I was talking with her, but then I looked down and saw something move. There was a spider on her. I then pushed her off. She was OK.

**Sister Diane Forster, BVM**

As a novice, I was one of Terese's students in the rhetoric class. What I remember most is her great energy. She really went at us about the way we wrote things, the way we expressed things, and how that might improve. We heard from another one of the sisters who was Terese's student in the same type of class. Susan Color, BVM who is a lawyer, does a lot of writing.

**Sister Sue Coler, BVM (Read by Sister Diane Forster, BVM)**

Terese taught me writing as a novice at Mount Carmel and I will always be grateful.

**Sister Jane Haslwanter, BVM (Janette)**

Terese is in my set. Years ago when I was working at Mundelein College, Terese came and helped me do some very serious work on our background. She was always there with a smile, eager to take the next step and learn more about each sister that we were working on in our development. I am grateful to Terese for all the time she spent with me going through these details. She was a wonderful asset and a very, very special friend. I will always remember Terese.

**Bob Petrzelka, Nephew**

When she was at Wright Hall, we would get over there to visit her at least once a year. In our family, Aunt Mare's appetite is legendary. Usually on Friday and Saturday nights, she would like to go to restaurants. She would pick one and we would go out. She would order something and I would look at it and say, "There is absolutely no way she is going to finish." She never disappointed me; she always finished. When we were all convinced that we couldn't eat another bite, she would order three different desserts to pass around. She definitely got her share of those.

My wife Ann would always bake Hershey Kiss cookies and bring them up here. I don't know if Aunt Mare ever actually shared them; the other Rink sister may have gotten some. The kids would kid her, "Aunt Mare, should we just take these up and put them in the kitchenette?" "Oh, let's just take them to my room. I'll make sure they get there." "Should we put a note on your door that says 'Free cookies. Help yourself?'" She'd say, "I don't think we are allowed to do that." She was always faithful about sending birthday cards. In looking at some of the cards she sent over the years, it struck me that she always signed the cards the way she lived her life—"Lovingly, Aunt Mare."