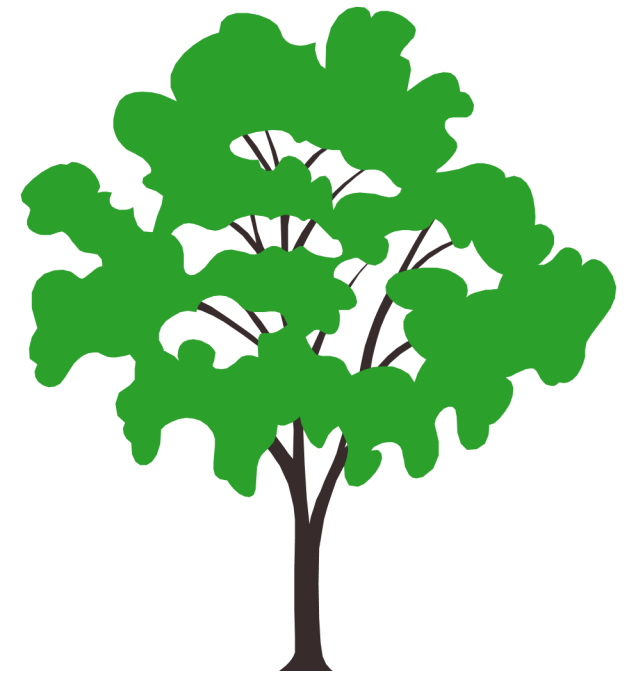


THE TREE OF LIFE



*"our oneness in Christ extends
beyond this life,
the bond of community
unites us even after death"
(Const. #59/d.31)*

***Remembering Sister AUDREY DUMOUCHELLE
1932 - 2019***

Sister AUDREY DUMOUCHELLE

1932 – 2019

Audrey Theresa Dumouchelle was born on May 28, 1932 in Windsor and grew up on a farm in Essex County. She was one of four children. She attended Essex High School and London Teacher's College. Before entering the Ursuline convent, she taught in the Harrow Separate School.

Sister Audrey entered the Ursuline Community in Chatham, Ontario on January 6th, 1956. Upon entering she taught at St. Joseph's School in Chatham. She received the habit on August 28, 1956 and was given the name Sister Francis Clare of the Holy Trinity. She took her first vows on August 28, 1958 and her final vows on August 29, 1963. From 1958 to 1960 she taught at Blessed Sacrament School in Chatham. Then she went to St Peter Canisius School in Watford where she taught from 1960 – 1963. In 1963 she became the principal of the school until 1968. In 1968 she studied for a year at University of Windsor. Then in 1969 she went to Immaculate Conception School in Stratford, Ontario where she was principal from 1969 to 1978. In 1978 she became principal of St. Michael's School until 1983. From 1981 to 1983 she was also the coordinator of the Community there.

In 1983 Sr. Audrey went to Moosonee as principal of the school there. She stayed there until 1987. From September until December 1987 she was trained in preparation for becoming the General Treasurer for the Community. She remained as General Treasurer from 1988 to 1996. Following a mini-sabbatical she returned to The Pines where she did Community committee work in Finance, Investment, the Cottage, and Futuring the Motherhouse. For many years she was involved with the MS Society in various aspects of their ministry.

In 2006 she moved with The Pines Community to their new home at Villa Angela where she resided on Marian Wing. She continued to serve the Community as the

contact person for accommodations. Sr. Audrey's interests have included computers, photography, coin and stamp collecting, jigsaw puzzles and all things that help to make Community, family and societal life more meaningful and enriching. Her most recent hobby was researching her family history. In 2014 she served on the Community Life Circle for the Villa Angela Community. In 2017 she decided to move into the Health Care Wing as she required more assistance. On September 6, 2019 she was admitted to hospital on the advice of a specialist to determine the source of her weakness and she remained in hospital for treatment. On September 18, 2019 she returned home. she continued to experience some health concerns and was being monitored carefully by doctors and health care staff. On November 5, 2019 we were informed that she was very weak. The sisters began sitting with her and praying for her. Just a few minutes after 9 p.m. she took her last breath.

The Vigil Service for Sr. Audrey was held at Villa Angela on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 3 p.m. The service was prepared by Sr. Joan Stafford who welcomed members of Sr. Audrey's family, her faithful friends and co-workers through the years, the Villa Angela staff and Care Givers who were very attentive to Sr. Audrey as her health failed, to the Community gathered to grieve and to celebrate. She expressed gratitude to Fr. Dikran, our faithful friend and companion who accompanies us with love. She reminded us that we are on the land of the Lené Lenapé, Delaware, Pottawatami, Ojibway & Chippewa Nations, and expressed gratitude for the sharing of this land with us and for preserving it to the 7th Generation. She also welcomed Sr. Audrey's spirit among us as we honored her, celebrated her life, and rejoiced in her Communion of Saints. Then she led us in a reflection on how Sr. Audrey partnered with God in her life.

Audrey served God and God's people, without fuss or ado, simply by doing what she was called and asked to do. She served in classrooms and schools, educating the minds, and still more the hearts, of the young ones entrusted to her care. She served in offices and on committees for the good and the welfare and the well-being of her community, of all of you, taking care of finances, being the 'good and trustworthy servant' of the gifts and blessings entrusted to her by you, her community, and by God.

In hindsight, Audrey's life is not a service of grand and spectacular successes, achievements, and accomplishments. She didn't pave new roads, break new trails, or undertake extraordinary tasks - well, with the one exception, of course, of going to Moosonee as principal of that remote and frigid community's school. And as you heard yesterday, staying on to rebuild that school after it was destroyed by fire. And, at the same time, rebuilding the hopes, the trust, and the confidence of the children in her care, who were left without a school building. Despite that one exception, Audrey's ministries were not grand or extraordinary. They were the ordinary things of life done with extraordinary care, concern, love, dedication, and commitment. They were the manifestations of the unfolding reign of God

in the midst of the ordinariness of daily life

The gospel we heard tells the story of how the women disciples of Jesus, after the Sabbath, went to Jesus' tomb to do for him what the Law required, only to be told by the angel of God: "Do not be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised." In the midst of the women's grief and sorrow, the comforting and reassuring word of God, proclaiming resurrection and life in a place of death, is heard. And this word of resurrection is equally spoken to us, and proclaimed and celebrated by us today. Audrey is not here; she is not sitting there in her usual place; for she has been raised to God. And yet, something of Audrey - her spirit, the fibre of her life woven into the tapestry of the Chatham Ursulines - remains with us, among us. Not simply relegated to archival history, but rather kept alive, holy, and precious in the collective story and consciousness that lives in, through, and among all of you.

The road made by walking in faith, with hope, with trust, in love, by humble service has now led Audrey to resurrection and eternal life with God. For her and with her, we give thanks and praise to God.



From January 1988 to April 1996, Audrey served as General Treasurer. Her love of numbers and attention to details allowed her to embrace this service of stewardship for the community resources. A finance and investment committee was set up to manage more complex and diverse fiscal matters. Audrey attended the annual ATRI (Association for Treasurers of Religious Institutes) conferences to keep abreast with the changing face of community finances.

In her years of retirement, Audrey enjoyed reading, computer work, arranging accommodation for guests, visiting her nephew Harry and praying for those who request our prayers. As Audrey felt the need for more care, she moved to Xavier Hall while staying interested and appreciative of the people around her.

As we review and celebrate Audrey's life perhaps, you can add your thoughts, images and memories to the final panel of Audrey's mural.



FUNERAL HOMILY FOR SISTER AUDREY DUMOUCHELLE

By Father Dikran Islemeci

Yesterday, at the Vigil service for Sr. Audrey, Sr. Joan spoke eloquently about Sr. Audrey's life using that wonderfully creative image of a "rather large wall mural depicting the many loves in her life." And she invited us to enter into, to explore, and to savour this multifaceted mural, this noble and holy life. However, before such a mural could have been painted, or better yet, created by living life fully, a preliminary and fundamental question had to be heard, and then responded to by Sr. Audrey. And that question is poetically expressed by Mary Oliver: *Tell me, what it is you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?* So the question posed to Audrey in her youth by God: Tell me, O daughter of mine, what do you plan to do with your one, unique, and sacred life? And how Audrey responded to that question all depended on how she saw herself, and how she saw God; depended on who she was, and who God was for her.

The 1st reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah begins to answer that fundamental question. "Do not be afraid; you are mine. You are mine. You are precious to me, and I love you, and I honour you. Do not be afraid for I am with you." God's word, spoken in silence to the depth of Audrey's heart; word of honour; word of assurance and comfort and hope; word calling forth and eliciting faith and trust in this loving Creator and God. This was Audrey's God, Audrey's love. And so she beheld herself as the beloved of God, and readily and trustingly surrendered herself and her life to God, and to God's people in service.

And she began to embody and to incarnate the words of the Ursuline Constitution that we heard: *We are created by God to be for others, to serve and to enable others to serve.*

Sr. Joan then invited us to sing the Gathering Song, "All Creatures of Our God and King". The Opening Prayer from Psalm 100 was led by Sr. Dolores Senay. The First Reading from the Ursuline Constitutions on Spirit and Mission was read by Sr. Mary Waters. We responded by singing the Response, "*You Are Near.*" The Second Reading from 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 was proclaimed by Sr. Kathleen O'Mara. Sr. Joan Stafford then gave her reflection on Sr. Audrey's life.

Sr. Joan invited those assembled to share their memories of Sr. Audrey. She led us in a Closing Prayer and then we sang the song, "Amazing Grace." The organist for the Vigil Service was Gaelle Mifflin and the cantor was Sr. Liz Lynch.

The Mass of the Resurrection was held at Villa Angela on Tuesday, November 12, 2019. The presider was Fr. Dikran Islemeci. Sr. Theresa Campeau and the Funeral Directors followed by Sr. Joan Stafford and Sr. Pauline Maheux processed to close the coffin. Sr. Anne Denomy welcomed everyone to the celebration of the life, death and resurrection of Sr. Audrey. She welcomed Sr. Audrey's nieces – Lillian, Debbie and Betty Jean as well as a group from Sr. Audrey's Watford school days. Then she reflected on some symbols for Sr. Audrey. First Sr. Anne donned a baseball cap and then spoke of the tamarack bird from Moosonee, a calculator for finances, something furry and soybeans etc. She reminded us that today we celebrate the gift of who Sr. Audrey is.

Then the Gathering Song, "All the Ends of the

Earth" was sung. Fr. Dikran prayed some prayers reminding us of Audrey's baptism and sprinkling the coffin with holy water. The First Reading from Isaiah 43: 1-4 was read by Sr. Liz Lynch. Our response to the reading was the song, "Let Us Go Rejoicing." The Second Reading from our Ursuline Constitutions on Service was proclaimed by Sr. Marie-Anne Quenneville. Fr. Dikran read the Gospel from Matthew 28:1-6 and gave the homily. The Prayers of the Faithful were led by Sr. Mary-Ellen Kenny. After the Communion Song, "Bread of Life, Hope for the World", Fr. Dikran prayed the Prayers of Farewell and out of respect for Sr. Audrey, he prayed that the incense would rise to God who called her to share in glory. As he did so, we sang the Song of Farewell, "Songs of the Angels." The Closing Song, "On Eagle's Wings", was sung and then everyone processed out of the Kiva followed by the coffin, flanked by the pallbearers – Jean Earley, Jim Earley, Delbert Lorenz, Pat Whelihan, John Race and Ron Coristine. The cantor for the Mass was Cindy Waddick and the organist was Gaelle Mifflin.

In the chapel at St. Anthony's Cemetery the Prayers of Committal were prayed by Sr. Rose Marie Rau. The coffin was sprinkled with holy water by Sr. Noreen Allosery-Walsh. Sr. Theresa Campeau gave the crucifix from the coffin, as a symbol of our desire to remain connected with Sr. Audrey's family, to Lillian Cassidy, Sr. Audrey's niece. Sr. Joan Stafford invited those assembled to sprinkle rose petals on the coffin. Then, the Hymn "Holy Mother St. Angela" was sung and Sr. Rose Marie Rau invited everyone to the Villa for lunch. As people left the cemetery chapel, the pall bearers and funeral director took the coffin to Sr. Audrey's burial site.



REFLECTION FOR SISTER AUDREY DUMOUCHELLE

By Sister Joan Stafford

Theresa, Audrey, Charlotte Dumouchelle was born on May 28, 1932 on a Saturday morning at 5:00 a.m. in Colchester North Township. Her parents were Ida (Bensette) and Henry (Harry) Dumouchelle. Audrey had two brothers: Joseph, who died suddenly at age 55 and Clarence, who died as the result of a work related accident at age 45. It is no surprise that Audrey and her sister, Beatrice became fast friends and were very united from childhood.

Putting her life in historical context, Audrey notes that she was born in the year the New York Yankees won the World Series and the Toronto Maple Leafs won the Stanley Cup. This may account for her life long love affair with sport. Audrey was baptized, made her first communion and was confirmed at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Essex. Her first encounter with the Ursulines was in Grade 3, when she attended Holy Name School with Mother Roberta as her principal and Mother St. Roch (Catherine Mary Strong) as her teacher. She completed the rest of her schooling at Elford Public School and Essex District High School. In 1952, Audrey attended London Teachers' College which launched her stellar career as an Elementary school teacher and principal. After a few months teaching in Harrow, Audrey entered the Ursulines of Chatham and was immediately assigned to teach at St. Joseph's downtown.

When I was reflecting on Audrey's life, I imagined a rather large wall mural depicting the many "loves" in her life.

Her love of sport: As a high school student, Audrey was a sports enthusiast, playing baseball, lacrosse, soccer, basketball, volleyball, darts and ping-pong. This "love", spilled over into her life as a teacher and

principal who coached sport. As a gifted teacher, she also balanced sport with rainy day activities such as board games, cards, word puzzles, math quizzes, experiments, chess tournaments, art projects and reading.

She loved to travel. Audrey was an inquisitive person, independent and in search of new experiences. She undertook many explorations with her sister, Beatrice. They made several trips through the United States to Florida, with many digressions enroute to take in exotic places, visit friends, check out the tried and true restaurants, as well as to spend time in the national parks and places of natural wonder and beauty. The Canadian landscape also intrigued Audrey and her Ursuline companions. The travel plans always included a play or two at the local outdoor theaters. In addition to sport and travel, Audrey's mural would also include a large swath dedicated to animal life and the earth itself. This "love" is rooted in her beginnings in Essex County. Audrey remembers with deep affection, her life on the farm. As a child, she hurried home from school to change her clothes and take her dog, Rover, through the fields to visit the cows. The kittens were her favourite and she managed to help them climb up on the outside of their house and sun bathe in her dormer window sills.

Her mother cultivated the fruit and flower gardens and was generous in sharing the produce with the neighbours. The Ursulines in Essex and wherever Audrey lived were well supplied with the best from the orchards and gardens cultivated by Mr. and Mrs. Dumouchelle. I suspect Audrey acquired her taste for high quality produce from the orchards, gardens and fields of Essex County.



Audrey had a great love of Accuracy. She recounts this event on herself and I am quoting from her life story:

"I had had a letter from Mother Kathleen Taylor asking me to enter on the first of January. I did not think she meant January 1st, so the week right after Christmas, Beatrice, Harry and I took mother to Quebec. She had great devotion to St. Anne de Beaupré. While in Quebec, we visited other shrines including St. Joseph's Oratory. On January 6th, 1956, I entered the Ursuline Convent in Chatham, Ontario. This was when I found out that Mother Kathleen really did want me to enter on January 1st, as I was to teach at St. Joseph's downtown. You can see that people have to be VERY specific regarding dates to me!!"

Her love of Teaching and Schools:

Audrey spent time at St. Joseph's and Blessed Sacrament in Chatham, St. Peter Canisius in Watford, Immaculate Conception and St. Michael's in Stratford. In all her dealings with children, staff, parents and school board members, Audrey always won the respect and trust of the entire Community. A woman of few words, people experienced her as fair, straight forward and supportive. She made great efforts to provide the teachers with the most current resources and I know that her office and classroom had the first computers on the market. She developed an easy rapport with her staff who could always be counted on to respond with dedication and commitment.

Underneath a fairly strict and no nonsense exterior, Audrey had a very compassionate and tender heart which was especially evident in times of crisis and tragedy. In 1983, Audrey went to be principal of Bishop Belleau School, a small Catholic School for indigenous children of the Cree Tribe in Moosonee. Moving from the lush landscape of Southwestern Ontario to the bleak, frozen white north must have been a big adjustment for Audrey but she took it in

stride. She set about providing the best possible learning environment for the children and gave the teachers the resources and scope they needed to live, teach, and thrive in this beautiful, frozen land.

Then tragedy struck. A faulty electrical wire ignited and our school burned to the ground. The next morning I went out walking to absorb the shock of our loss and take in the devastation.

In the midst of the smoke, I met a small boy named Solomon and in bewilderment he said, "Sister, who am I now that I am not a Bishop Belleau kid anymore?" Wanting to reassure him, I said, "Of course you will always be a Bishop Belleau kid. We will have school tomorrow."

I went back to the house to share my story with Audrey and the staff gathered and she said, "I won't leave here till the school is rebuilt." With that, she and her secretary headed to the basement computer, to begin the arduous task of filing a fire insurance claim without the benefit of records. She sent us off without even a pencil, to gather the children and find spaces where we could continue teaching!

Audrey and the people shared a deep faith in God's providence. She spent many months working quietly to produce the required documentation to secure sufficient funds and approval to rebuild the school. The staff worked under very difficult circumstances to ensure that the children and their community did not feel abandoned. Audrey was able to do this work in peace and with perseverance because she had strong faith and confidence that God would assist her for the sake of the children. Bishop Belleau School was rebuilt and Audrey retired from teaching in June 1987. She taught a total of 31 years, 9 months, 8 days!