

Readings were proclaimed by two women who entered at the same time as Benigna - Sister Kathleen O'Mara and Georgette Lefaive. This group has maintained their friendships while they travelled diverse paths. Their gatherings were a source of encouragement and joy over the years. Father John Jasica, the presider, reflected on the readings reminding us that we are all called to tend the garden of our world by loving one another.

During the prayers at the cemetery, the crucifix was presented to Sister Benigna's sister Connie as a reminder of the ongoing connection between the Ursulines and the Macadaeg family.

Following prayers at the cemetery led by Sister Karen Gleeson, sisters, family members and friends gathered at Smitty's for lunch and sharing of memories. In the readings that Benigna chose for her celebrations of life, she left a final reminder of what was important to her - and important for us as we continue the journey:

What God requires of you is this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.



Remembering Benigna Macadaeg

1936 - 2022



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

Sister Benigna Macadaeg entered eternal life on April 24, 2022, the Celebration of Divine Mercy, a feast close to her heart. Born in Manila, Philippines in 1936, she was the daughter of Juan and Celedonia. She received her training as a nurse in the Philippines and entered the Ursuline Community in 1962 receiving the name Sister Maria Rosario.

Sister Benigna was a caring and wise nurse who used her healing skills with students and Sisters at Glengarda School in Windsor, in the infirmary at The Pines and in her retirement years at Villa Angela, now known as St. Angela's Meadow Retirement Lodge. During the celebration of her life, Sisters shared stories of her compassion, her attentiveness to their concerns, her generosity and her skill. She brought comfort through her nursing expertise, her ability to answer questions and allay fears, and through the flowers she delivered to brighten the day of someone needing a little cheer.

Even though Benigna lived far from her family - her parents and twelve siblings - she kept in close touch with them by letter, by care packages, by visits when her health was good, and in recent times, through technology. Each member of her family was important to her, loved by her and prayed for by her. It was a true blessing that so many family members, including two of her sisters, Connie and Maria Rosario were able to attend her Mass of Resurrection.

Her gardening skills were extensive and her glorious roses and exotic lilies brought beauty and elegance to the houses where she lived. When she was able to garden she could often be found on her small stool,

head and arms covered and bent over as she rooted out the pesky bindweed or planted bulbs or fertilized her roses.

Her faithful work on behalf of the Multiple Sclerosis Society was well known in the community and beyond as she participated in yearly walkathons, the annual Christmas dinners and other MS events. She was a top fundraiser in the Chatham area for many years.

Many people experienced her compassion during difficult times in their lives through the cards she sent and prayers she offered for them and their intentions. During her retirement years she continued her outreach through letters, visits and financial donations. Her daily efforts eased the burden and brightened the days of those who were suffering.

The Ursuline Sisters celebrated Benigna's life at Villa Angela as they shared readings and remembrances. In the evening of April 27th, family members and friends were able to gather at the Hinnegan-Peseski Funeral Home to continue sharing of stories. What a gift it was to receive members of Benigna's family from Boston, New York and California!

The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Church. Sister Theresa Campeau welcomed everyone including those who joined by live stream. Music was lead by Marilyn Gutteridge and Lin Treacy with the enthusiastic participation of the congregation. The singing, which has been absent from churches during the pandemic, was such a welcome addition. Benigna herself was an enthusiastic member of the choir group at Villa Angela.