

***Remembering  
Sister Loretta Mitchell  
1932 - 2023***



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

Sister Loretta Mitchell ended her earthly journey peacefully on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and now is reunited with her parents, John and Alice, and her twelve sisters and brothers who predeceased her. Lottie, the youngest in her family, lost her parents when she was very young. Her father died when she was eight and her mother, when she was fourteen.

In her reflection on her life she states that her heart is very much with the farm and she talked about how much she enjoyed nature, including the stars which she used to marvel at on hot summer nights as her mother taught all about the constellations.

After attending a one room school in Dorchester and St. Angela's College in London, where she met the Ursulines, she went to Catholic Central for grade twelve before entering the Ursuline Community in 1931. A gifted and enthusiastic teacher, she spent 33 years in education before taking a sabbatical year which included a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and other places of religious significance.

In the following years she ministered as Dean of Students at Brescia College, assisted at Holy Family Retreat House and was a local leader in Regina. Wherever she went she found beautiful people and enriching experiences. In her 'retirement' years in Strathroy, London and

Chatham she found many and varied opportunities to volunteer her time and talents.

Lottie chose the prayers and songs for her Celebration of Life and Mass of Resurrection. Her good friend, Sister Rose Marie Blonde, assisted her and prepared the reflection for the service which was led by Sister Sheila McKinley. Throughout her life Sister Loretta had great devotion to Our Lady and thus it was particularly appropriate that her life was celebrated on January 1<sup>st</sup>, feast of Mary, Mother of God. The readings from Sacred Scripture were proclaimed by Sisters Dolores Senay and Joan Stafford and Sister Eleanor Gleeson led the Prayers of Intercession.

Many of Lottie's relatives were able to participate in the Mass of Resurrection. In the opening procession Evan Vaughn placed a photo of the family on the altar and the readings were proclaimed by Saige Davis and Lou Zammit. Father Clare Coleman was the presider and homilist. He commented about how the readings chosen by Lottie revealed what was most important to her, and what she wanted to share with us. All the readings revealed God's deep love for us, God's desire to abide with us and God's yearning for us to share that love with each other. Sister Eleanor Gleeson led the Prayers of the Faithful. The music ministers for both services were Sister Liz Lynch and Ryan Nauta.

Because it was not possible to have the interment on the day of the funeral, Sister Theresa Mahoney presented the crucifix that was on Lottie's casket to Lottie's godson, Jimmie Mitchell, as a reminder of our desire to remain connected to Lottie's family. The interment took place on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> with Sister Theresa Mahoney leading the prayers.



**“Let us remember Lottie as a woman of prayer, a lover of creation and woman of hospitality to, and compassion for others. She lived life to the full and knew how much God had blessed her.”**

*Sister Rose Marie Blonde*