

***Remembering
Sister Pauline Maheux
1938 - 2024***



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

Sister Pauline Maheux (Shirley Mae Elizabeth) entered the fullness of life on August 29, 2024 after a short illness. She was predeceased by her parents Eugene and Monique, her sister Gaery Verstraete and brother Rene. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Audrey, her brother-in-law, Lyle and nieces and nephews, all of whom were very dear to her.

Her parents travelled from Quebec and settled in Alberta and Pauline was born in Edmonton. In the course of her life she navigated a variety of experiences which were both enriching and challenging. She went from Alberta to Ontario when she entered the Ursuline Community in 1956. She lived through a monastic style to an apostolic orientation; ministered both in North America and South America; engaged in a contemplative lifestyle in the House of Prayer and steeped herself in active ministry with many marginalized groups.

Pauline was an adventurer and a seeker throughout her life, responding to the needs that presented themselves. She was devoted to the women, children and men of Chiclayo, Peru, where Ursulines were involved with various groups including the Lay Community of St. Angela. Centre Hope, Centre St. Angela and the Women's Circle Movement which Pauline initiated. Her passion for vulnerable women and her dedication to the empowerment of women was evident in her many

involvements including working on the planning committee for annual National Day of Remembrance and Action to End Violence Against Women as well as her work with Chatham Kent Hope Housing. Her groundbreaking work with the House of Prayer helped the Ursuline Community and other groups to develop fresh and enlivening approaches to living out the baptismal call grounded in the Scriptures.

The prayers for Pauline's Celebration of Life were led by Sr. Sheila McKinley. They reflected Pauline's devotion to Sophia Wisdom, her rootedness in the mysticism of Teilhard de Chardin and the journey into Holy Mystery. The reading from the Ursuline Constitutions was proclaimed by Sr. Theresa Campeau and it was followed by a reflective moment that acknowledged the work that Pauline had done in the writing of the Ursuline Constitutions as well as the women who inspired her and with whom she collaborated to create an inspiring document that is still relevant today. Sr. Marian Krauskopf read from the writing of Teilhard de Chardin and the reading was followed by "This Ancient Love", one of Pauline's favourite songs by Carolyn McDade.

Sr. Noreen Allossery-Walsh reflected on Pauline's life and addressed in Spanish the Community's Peruvian friends who joined the celebration of life by livestream. Her talk was a reminder that for Pauline and for all of us the challenge in life is often more about living the questions than finding the answers.

The sharing of memories that followed reflected many different aspects of Pauline's life across the years.

The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated by Father Clare Coleman who met Pauline when he first ministered in Peru. By then she was a seasoned missionary who could offer insights and helps for his new ministry. The readings were proclaimed by Sr. Karen Gleeson who read from the Book of Wisdom and Sr. Margot Fish who read from the Letter to the Corinthians in Spanish. Fr. Clare in his homily focused on each reading emphasizing the importance of the Word of God for Pauline and for us. The Prayers of the Faithful were led by Sr. Jean Ann Ledwell. Several Sisters, other friends, Fr. Clare and Fr. Frank O'Connor lent their voices to the Spanish verse of the communion song. The music ministers for both the Celebration of Life and the Mass were Sr. Liz Lynch and Michael Milner.

The prayers of farewell were followed by a procession from the kiva in which Sr. Karen Gleeson carrying the urn was accompanied by Sr. Theresa Mahoney and Sr. Anne Denomy. Friends and Sisters then gathered for a light lunch and more sharing.