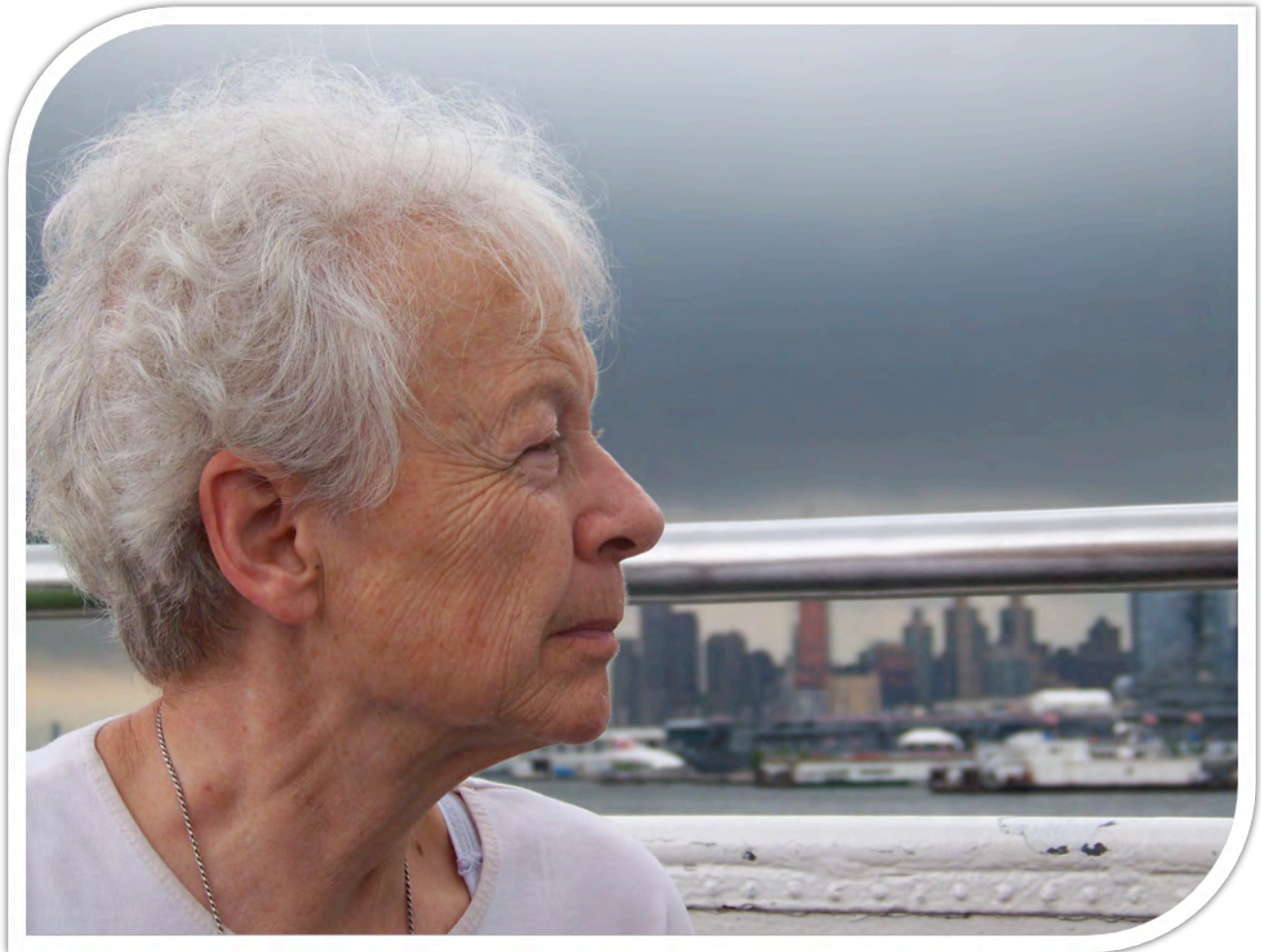


Consolation Notes
From all over the world



Joan Granzeier on the East River, NY, 2009

From Elisabetta Flick, Superior General – Society of Helpers, Paris

This afternoon, which was morning for you, I learned of Joan's unexpected departure. I wish to let you and all the province know how present I am to you in prayer and affection at this very painful time for all of you.

If I feel that for Joan, her departure is a gift from the Lord and that gives me peace, I also feel all the pain and agony that such an unexpected death leaves us with. The Lord made her the gift of not experiencing the agony of death....which she feared, and even more so, the fear of losing her autonomy.

Joan was someone who was very precious for the Institute, for myself, for many Helpers, not only those in her province.

I am thankful that Elisabeth was able to spend a few days with Joan. I feel that she is suffering much at this time because I know that Joan had been a great help to Elisabeth when they lived together in Paris.

I remain in close union with you and each one of you.

I send a strong embrace.

Sister Elisabetta Flick, General Superior, Paris

I heard the sad news about Joan in Tokyo. This news shocked me. Probably, for you and all sisters in the US province, too. I loved Joan's smile. I pray for Joan, you, and the province of the USA. With love and prayer.

Sister Chiharu, Japan

So sorry to hear this morning of the death of Joan Granzier. I'm so glad she was living with Margaret for these last months of her life. With much love to you and praying for you all as you grieve and celebrate the life and death of Joan.

Sister Maggy Ann, Great Britain

I just got the note that Joan died last night, I'm so sorry, I'm really shocked about this. I pray for you and think in solidarity of you all. God give you hope and strength in this difficult days.

Love Kriszti, Austria

I really sorry for the loss of Joan.

She still is a genuine Helper forever.

I truly would like to express my solidarity with all Helpers in the US and entire society.

Sister Kaoru, Japan

I want say to you my communion and my condolences during this sad time of Joan Granzier's peaceful death. Yes, she died as she lived, in peace. Joan is the first sister from US that I have known because of her service in the generalat team. I remember her in Paris and in Rwanda for visit, especially I remember with gratitude how she accompany me for registration at DePaul University for English studies , she was so kind and patient with

me who had difficult to speak English , I could tell her some word in my French - kinyarwanda - English and we laughed. We lived together a short time at Humboldt, she was always courageous and joyful. I keep her smile and her humanity. May God give her eternal rest in Peace and Joy.

And you my Sisters courage and condolences. She is going to be our ambassador.

Union and prayer.

Sister Goretti, Rwanda

I'm so sorry to hear the news about Sister Joan. She was always so pleasant, diligent and had a smile for everyone.... a quiet, peaceful presence. I will keep her and her sisters and family in my prayers.

God's grace and peace to you always,

Katy Kennedy, Chicago

I cannot believe that Joan is no longer with us. I carry Joan in very good remembrance. When I was a temporary professed, she was a general councilor in Paris and at this time Joan was a very important person for me and our vice province Switzerland. Joan understood our Viceprovince Switzerland very well and she was also a huge support when Sister Rosmarie Zemp from our Province passed away. I remember Joan very well and I am deeply touched that you all needed to let her go. I am in solidarity with your community and the Helpers in the US. Joan can be at home with her God and she will continue to be a faithful support for all of us.

Sister Rosa Infanger, Switzerland

I am very touched that Joan unexpectedly passed away. However, I am also grateful for her as she reached her life-goal to be with God. I knew Joan as a general councilor and I always appreciated her. I am in deep solidarity with all of you in these days of farewell.

With warm greetings to all of you.

Sister Marianne Bucher, Switzerland

Yes, I knew Joan very well and I always loved her. I am thinking of the time when she was a General councilor and when I lived with her in the same community in Paris. I am in solidarity with all of you.

Sister Maria Buehlmann, Switzerland

I am deeply touched about the unexpected “going home” of our dear Joan. Many years ago I knew Joan very well and I experienced a lot with her. I am happy for her that she now can experience fullness of life. In my sadness and in my pain I stay in solidarity with you and your province whole heartedly.

Sister Renata Albisser, Switzerland

I am in solidarity with all of you!

Sister Ernesta Gervasi, Switzerland

In these sad moments and hours, I stay with all of you in solidarity.

Sister Gabriela von Daeniken, Switzerland

I am deeply touched that one of your sisters died, even though I do not know her. I am grateful for her picture as I know that you lived with her for over a year. Her face is soft and warm, her smile is loving. I am sorry that I cannot come to know her when I will visit you next summer in Chicago.

Daniela Maria Hinterholzer, Austria

I am touched about sister Joan's death. Thank you for sharing it with me. May God bless your sadness and your letting go of her.

Heidi Baldauf, Austria

C'est avec surprise et émotion que nous apprenons le retour à Dieu de notre chère Joan Granzeier. Les anciens membres du Conseil Général de 1980 se souviennent avec grande reconnaissance qu'elle avait accepté- en ce temps-là- de venir remplacer

Rena Boyd qui venait de décéder. Joan m'a ainsi accompagnée - avec compétence et gentillesse- au cours de mes deux mandats de Généralat.

Aussi, soyez assurée de la prière reconnaissante de l'Institut aux intentions de Joan qui aura été très vite accueillie par le Seigneur et Marie de la Providence.

Je vous embrasse bien affectueusement soeur France DELCOURT

Toute la communauté des Auxiliatrices de la Roseraie se joint au message de soeur France et vous exprime son affection
soeur Anne-Marie Peyresaubès, France

We are surprised and in deep sorrow to receive the news that our friend, our benefactor and our dearest sister, Joan Granzeier has suddenly passed away. We know that you are also in deep sadness. Here we send you our heartfelt condolence. We are united in the prayer with you for the repose of Joan called to our Father. Each of us had a happy time with Joan by life sharing such as prayer, consolation, encouragement and etc., while staying in USA Province for study or sabbatical year. We recall so many memories with her and we are filled with deep gratitude toward her. We are united with Joan who continues her work in heaven as well as all of you living your mission on the earth.

With our heartfelt prayer,
Regis Mitsuko Abe, Japan
Pia Kazuko Terachi, Japan
Paula Yoshiko Shinagawa, Japan
Maria Teruko Onojima, Japan

So sorry about Sr. Joan, I did not know her well, but she appeared to be a gentle person and was wonderful regarding the time she donated to Casa for the past 6 years, Blessings.

Caron Colleen, Chicago

I am so sorry to learn of Joan's death. It is shocking. She was such a nice person. I enjoyed her very much. She was a great asset to Casa. She will be missed both personally and professionally. Thanks for letting me know.

Elaine, Chicago

I have just learned of the death of Joan and I want you to know that my thoughts and prayer are with you in your loss. Joan and I go back a long way and I was very fond of her. What I really admired about her, among other things, was the generosity she showed when taking up the task of Assistant General in Paris. This was not an easy time for her but her overwhelming desire to reach out to us in our provinces was stimulating for me and for her and something she was really good at.

Again, I witnessed her courage when we met at the Secretaries' session in Paris. She bore her illness so well and, as usual, was interested in finding out how everyone was. I am so glad to have had that short time with her.

I will count her among the Helpers who have influenced my life in the Institute for good.

Somehow, I don't think she will "rest in peace", (A phrase I have always disliked!) but I know she will continue to love.

Your province and the Institute owe so much to Joan.

Love to each one.

Sister Maureen McCollum, Great Britain

i am so sorry for your loss... and even though i haven't known her as long as you, i miss her too... i am so shocked and saddened by her departure.... she was such a wonderful spirit... i'm sure God is rejoicing her homecoming with a fattened calf and a ring for her finger.... but i miss her being here and not being able to say goodbye... she was so precious... i will be at the services with you in spirit.... i will hold you and all the helpers close to my heart... peace and love my friend...

Jane Bischoff, Cleveland

Thank you so very much for notifying me of Joan's death. After the first shock, I am feeling the pain and sadness of the loss, even though I am at the same time grateful that Joan ends her life without having had to undergo the trial of going to a nursing home and a growing dependence on others. I am also every so grateful of having been able to spend a last happy week with her, a peaceful week engaged in deep dialogues and the simple joy of being together. I know that, like myself, you mourn not only a sister, but a friend. I am sending you the last photo I took with Joan when we took a boat along the Illinois River, a happy time. May her smile remain for us a call to share the joy that is now hers in her definitive meeting with God. In communion with you, with Margaret, and with the entire US province, I unite myself to your sadness and your prayer.

I embrace you very affectionately,
Elisabeth Oberson, France

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Sister Elisabetta Flick, General Superior, Paris

Just to say that I pray for you at this time of the death of Joan. I keep in my heart different times to share with her when I was in Chicago. Now, does she watch over us.

With my communion,
Sister Sylvie BEAUMONT, France

My sympathy and prayers for your loss in the death of Sr. Joan.

Ron prayed for her at our Eucharist this morning. I was surprised, because I had not yet looked at my email.

We will continue to remember her in our prayers.

Ted Cironi, Chicago

When I received the mail from Secretariat General and read the name, I was so surprised at the news.

When I was a novice, Joan visited Japan first time. Since then she had some chances to visit Japan and I have some chances to talk with her.. She was very kind to us. I never forget her smile and her talk. I will pray for her and your sisters in US.

Thanks to Joan and Province of US!!

Much love,
Sister Margarita, Japan

Thank you for your lovely note and for thinking of me. I was so shocked to hear about Joan and I do agree that God was merciful and compassionate. It was so much for her to handle and now she rests in Love. Be assured of my prayers for you and the province. I will be at Racine and not able to attend her funeral - a big disappointment but I'll be there in spirit. Joan was such a sweet person who inspired me with her gentleness. I loved meeting her these last few years. She was such a reminder of what life is about.

Peace, Helen Cahill, Chicago

Thank you for your e-mail about Joan. I didn't know that news. I have been living apart from Helper's community since June 22, for I am working in the area attacked by tsunami on March 11th. It is very sad news and I don't know how to write to all of you. Jean, please remember that you and all U.S. Helpers are always in my mind and prayers. I wish I could be there...

Much love,
Sister Kikuyo, Japan

I am deeply sorry to hear that our sister Joan Gronzaer passed away. It's really a shock to me and for our sisters in Rwanda. We known her as general council and she is my friend. Thank you Joan for your being and for the gifts you gave to our Institute and in my personal life. May God receives you in his/her hands.

With solidarity
Sister Antoinette Gasibirege, Rwanda

She remains a great example of another learned, intelligent, blessed woman of the Church. She will be missed until we meet again. Peace...

Thomas Kinsella, Chicago

I met Joan during my stay in Chicago in 2006 and I liked her personality and how she felt about people, about religious life, she was also a very spiritual person. I met her again two years ago when she came to Paris for the session of provincial secretaries. She sometimes felt very tired then and knew it was her last journey to Paris. I am staying in communion of prayer with the sisters of the U.S. province. The sisters in my community will also keep Joan in their prayer.

Sister Benedicte Delabi, France

Dear Parishioners, we mourn the loss today of Sr. Joan Granzeier, one of the brightest lights in our community. The Society of Helpers and the St. Teresa Staff would love to have you come and celebrate this shining light with us.

Sr. Joan's wake will be held in the church, Thursday, September 8th from 4pm until 7pm. A prayer service will begin at 7pm and continue until 8pm.

The funeral mass will be held in the church, Friday, September 9th at 11am.

All are welcome to come and pay respects to this one life that touched so many others. Please contact the parish office with any questions 773-528-6650.

I just saw the message that Joan has died this night. I am very touched and I think that you all are the same. I knew her when I was in Tchad and she a General Councilor, she was so helpful for me and the sisters in the group. I knew her as a very friendly and sensitive women who loved people of all kind and I think she will leave a big hole in the Province. So I'll stay in prayer and solidarity with you all

With love
Sister Marie-Theres Wellinger, Switzerland

When I heard the name of Joan Granzeier I went into a shock... I was looking forward to see her at Humboldt during Fall Break... Then the movie "Of Men and of Gods" sprang up in my memory. She had received this DVD from Elisabeth Oberson from France and shared it with us the last time I was at Humboldt. She watched it on my computer because it did not play elsewhere. The movie had just been released and had received the prestigious Palme d'Or at Cannes Festival in France. In the conclusion of this movie, a group of monks walked uphill in the snow to their place of execution, it is a "violent" end but yet the audience takes away from the movie a deep feeling of serenity and peace, Joan loved the movie, who would not? Those who have watched it said that it was the most beautiful movie ever made.

Joan left us in her sleep, in the sorrow of this separation; I thank God for having taken her in a state of peace, serenity and contemplation. She exuded serenity and peace each time we communicated in the context of Emma group. May she rest in peace and have a happy reunion with all the Helpers gone ahead of us.

Sister Cecile Leung, South Carolina

Just heard from Eric that Sister Joan died. Huge loss to so many of us that cried on her shoulder. She was always able to listen and smile.

Jack Halpin, Chicago

When Mary Ellen called this morning to relate that Joan had died , it was a shock . Teresa and I prayed the De Profundis in chapel . A kaleidoscope of memories played through me : novitiate where her creativity to gleefully siphon water from third floor tub to water the garden area we had just weeded got us all in trouble; province meetings when she mimed the boy with the basket of fish called by Jesus and the person who could not fit into their jacket ; Page Blvd house of hospitality , surviving the revolution , robberies , so pastoral ,so loved in the community (forgotten when the history of St. Louis was written) ; years serving the institute in formation and on generalate championing , defending , extending herself for the mission of each Sister .

There is a "hole" with her passing over and a peace she died in her sleep at the home of her brother , Art , whose love was a constant support in her life . Also what a joy that Elizabeth Oberson and she shared time together recently .

I am sure she was greeted with open arms by her Lord .

Sister Gerry Finan, New York

I am so sorry to hear the news of Joan, what a shock this must have been for you all. If I find it hard to take it in it must be even more so for all of you.

I keep her and you all in the US province in my prayer

Love,

Sister Clare Wilson, France

Before beginning our session this afternoon Elisabeth has shared with us Joan's death. I am sure that this has been a gift from God for her even though it is sorryful for the Province.

Please know that my heart and prayers are with you and the province.

My love and union with all,

Sister Clara Delphin, Latin America

Very often I thought about Joan. When I was in Chicago, she was the person who I was the most attached. Please lay a flower on her grave as a little sign of gratitude for the many wonderful conversation on the kitchen table.

Sister Edith Zingg, Switzerland

I will certainly remember Joan in my prayers. She was such a kind gentle lady.

John Pvaile, Chicago

Sr. Joan Granzeier, a bright shining light at my parish, St. Teresa of Avila in Chicago's Lincoln Park, passed away earlier this week. She was always a constant source of love, wisdom, encouragement, and support for me, and though I know her to be in a better place, her passing breaks my heart.

Rita McConville, Chicago

The Good News, which, we have received, must be communicated:

We experience this urgency.

*By our entire life as well as by our words,
we desire to help all persons encounter God.*

*If we truly desire to proclaim the truth that God is Father,
we must work to establish loving relationships
and mutual respect among ourselves and among all,
so that the absolute value of every human being,
especially the poor and neediest be recognized.*

Society of Helpers, Const # 25



Niagara Falls, 2009