



In Loving Memory Sr Patrick McLaughlin CPS

who died on 13th August 2020,
at the Convent Mariannahill, KZN South Africa

*"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will take joy in the God of my salvation."*
Habakuk 3:18

Sr Patrick Mc Laughlin CPS would not only refer to herself jokingly as Sr Habakuk, but would also refer to the above Scripture passage as her favorite one, as it gave her joy in good times and consolation in difficult times.

Sr Patrick was born on 24th of July in 1932 in Centreville/New Brunswick, Canada, into a good Catholic family of Irish descent. Her parents put the interest of their six children, two boys and four girls, always first and brought them up as good Catholics. Already as a young girl Sr Patrick surprised her family and friends, when she declared that she would become a nun one day. However, she took some time to test her vocation. When Sr Patrick, turned 25years, she entered our Congregation at St Bernard's Convent in Toronto on 17th Mach 1958. She had already some work experience which had made herself financially independent. Many of her family members and friends expressed a great surprise, if not dismay, about her choice of life.

Having completed her Religious formation, she made her First Profession on 15th August 1960. One year later she was missioned to South Africa. After her arrival at Mariannahill she spent some time in St Mary's Hospital. In 1963 she was transferred to Centecow Mission where she worked in the X-Ray Department of the St Appolionaris Hospital. Besides doing her regular job in the Hospital, she also looked after the sacristy and gave a helping hand doing house chores in the little CPS Convent. For someone coming from a First World Country, life on a rural and remote mission station demanded great adaptation. Nonetheless, Sr Patrick maintained that the years in Centocow were the happiest of her religious life.

In 1971 Sr Patrick was called to Mariannahill where she was assigned to the Provincial Bursars' Office for four years. After having attended a short course as telephone operator, she spent 26 years as the Receptionist at the Convent Entrance, a very busy place at that time. She was ideally suited for this ministry because of her good command of the English language, her technical skills and her friendly disposition. After 26 years of serving at the Convent entrance, Sister retired in 2012.

During the last years of her life Sr Patrick battled with a number of health problems. She bore her suffering patiently. Sr Patrick was a cheerful member of the community who tried for ever to lighten the burdens of her fellow Sisters with her sense of humor and by providing entertainment with showing films and DVD's to the Sisters.

As the years passed by Sr Patrick spent more time to herself, reading and meditating, being close to God. Sr Patrick had been blessed with a deep faith instilled into her in her youth and fostered by herself during her religious life. She took great comfort in the words of Nehemiah: "The joy of the Lord is my strength." Neh. 8:10

Sr Patrick was admitted to the Mariannahill Convent St Elisabeth Infirmary on 20th September 2012.

Sr Patrick never lost her Irish humor up to the end of her life. A Regional Superior wrote in her condolences, "If this was a practice, I would have requested Sr Patrick's sense of humor as my inheritance." One Provincial Superior wrote, "Sr Patrick was such a special person, truly faithful to her Irish roots and humor, I wonder what jokes she had when she met St Peter at the gate."

Sr Patrick received Holy Anointing of the sick a few times by Fr Jonathan CMM, our Convent Chaplain.

When Sr Patrick died, it was 2 days before she would have celebrated her 60th Jubilee of Religious Life.

May her dear Soul
rest in Eternal Peace and Happiness.