## PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION



DECEMBER 6, 2020

In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world.

JOHN 16:33

### YOU ARE AMONG THE SAINTS & ANGELS

At the prayer meeting today you might say, 'there aren't as many people as we thought would be here, or we seem so far apart'. But I tell you today you are standing among the saints, and with the angels who are between each of you, filling up this room, singing, praising, and worshipping with you. So don't be discouraged, you are among the saints. You are among the cloud of witnesses. Praise as if you were standing in Heaven with them before me. Don't be discouraged, but have hope and continue to praise and worship and know that you are in my presence

#### PRAISE GOD IN ALL THINGS

Do not be afraid. Have holy fear of God alone. Seek to please him alone. Be joyful and grateful for what he has done. Even if the sky should fall, praise the Lord. Praise him for forgiving your transgressions, praise him for dying for you. Praise him for opening the path to eternal life. Praise him always and then you will be radical witnesses of the gospels.

## **BE BOLD**

The Lord is putting a sense of boldness in our hearts. He wants us to be bold with our families and those closest to us. There is a spirit of boldness that the Lord wants to instill in all of us.... to come out of the boxes that constrain us in our faith especially with those closest to us.

## "TAKE HEART, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD"

"In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) I have the power to change your discouragement into encouragement. I have the power to change your hopelessness into hope. I have the power to change your inwardness into openness. I have the power to change your judgement into mercy. Do you really believe this... are you going to forget this when you leave? In this world, you will have trouble, but I want you to leave this time with courage, ready to take heart and stand by one another. I have the power to change your hearts, so that you can help overcome the world.

Prophecies from Hybrid Community Prayer Meeting
November 1, 2020

#### JESUS IS THE PRIZE

Jesus reminds us today that he is the prize and that intimacy with him and eternity with him in Heaven is the point of everything. All is sheer gift, his excessive gift and love. Be reminded that every grace, every joy, every blessing, every spiritual gift, every talent that we have, even our vocations and our family, our jobs, the fruit that we see from our ministry, all of that is gift. What is essential is that Jesus be on the throne of our hearts. We have a deep need for that relationship with him. Everything else can be stripped away as long as He is on the throne of our hearts,....that's all the matters.

#### MEET ME IN THE SILENCE

Come spend time with me. Clear out the noises, the numerous voices clamoring for your attention. Remove those from without, and those from within.... the thoughts, the planning, the worrying, thinking ahead and thinking back. I long for you to encounter me, beyond all of this, in my infinite depth, meeting me in the stillness and the silence. For as you gaze upon me there, I in turn can gaze upon you and communicate my life into your very being. And then remain. Remain in me whether you are at work or at rest because I desire to be with you wherever you are. Turn to me often because I am with you and I want to remain with you.

## MY POWER IS GREAT ON YOUR BEHALF

My children, recall the faith of those who stood at the foot of my son's cross and faced what appeared to be utter defeat. Do not be dismayed by the evils that appear to be overwhelming you. For just as the cross became the means of your salvation, so too it will be the means to defeat this present darkness. All will be used for your good and my greater glory. So let your hearts be steadfast and glad and your minds be filled with sound judgement. Raise your hearts and your voices together in heart felt prayer and fasting. For I hear your pleas and my power is great on your behalf. I am using all things to bring about my salvation for the world.

## **WALK WITH EACH OTHER**

I love each of you uniquely and eternally. My encouragement to you as a body is to embrace the truths of your faith, protect each other, walk with each other as you do so well. Begin affirming each other in your distinctive, distinguished gifts and perspectives so that you may strengthen the whole body, my whole body, the church.

# Congratulations to Cardinal Cantalamessa!

Pope Francis raises Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa to the rank of cardinal on November 28, 2020.



On November 28th, Pope Francis <u>raised thirteen new</u> <u>cardinals</u>. Included in that group is People of Hope's dear brother and friend, Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa. Cardinal Cantalamessa has been a long time friend of the POH since his Baptism of the Holy Spirit at Covent Station in 1977 at a People of Hope prayer meeting. Read more about Fr. Cantalamessa and the People of Hope's history below.

# Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa's long history with the People of Hope

1977

AFTER THE KANSAS CITY CONFERENCE IN 1977 HE VISITED THE PEOPLE OF HOPE. FR. BRENDAN MURRAY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN LEADING FR. CANTALAMESSA IN THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. READ MORE BELOW

2002

HE VISITED THE PEOPLE OF HOPE. HE MET WITH DAVE TOUHILL, WALT QUENSE, AND PAUL GIEGERICH ENCOURAGING US ABOUT THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY. HE LATER SPOKE TO THE STUDENTS AT KOINONIA ACADEMY. WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRAY OVER HIM. HE ALSO MET WITH BOB GALLIC WHO WAS SUFFERING FROM ALS. HE ENCOURAGED AND PRAYED OVER BOB.

2003

JANUARY 7, AFTER BOB'S PASSING, HE SENT HIS LOVE AND BLESSING TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AND A KIND ENCOURAGEMENT TO DAVE TOUHILL, "NOW THAT BOB IS IN HEAVEN, GOD SAYS TO YOU WHAT HE SAID TO JOSHUA AFTER THE DEATH OF MOSES." (SEE JOSHUA 1:6-9)

2007

FR. CANTALAMESSA ACCEPTED OUR INVITATION TO AGAIN VISIT THE PEOPLE OF HOPE. HE MET WITH THE COORDINATORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS. HE SPOKE AT A JOINTLY SPONSORED EVENT BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF HOPE AND SETON HALL UNIVERSITY AT THE WALSH GYM AT SETON HALL. HE SPOKE ABOUT HIS BEING BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT WHILE VISITING THE PEOPLE OF HOPE. HE LATER SPOKE TO THE PRIESTS OF THE NEWARK ARCHDIOCESE AT A JOINTLY SPONSORED EVENT BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF HOPE AND THE NEWARK ARCHDIOCESE.

OVER THE YEARS, MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE INTERACTED WITH FR. CANTALAMESSA IN ROME AND OTHER PLACES. KATIE PROVINSAL MET HIM IN ROME. BOB GALLIC, WALT QUENSE, AND DAVE TOUHILL WERE WITH HIM AT THE CATHOLIC FRATERNITY CONFERENCE IN ROME; AT THE CONFERENCE BOB OLIVER, WHO WAS STUDYING THERE, TRANSLATED HIS TALK FROM ITALIAN TO ENGLISH AT THE CONFERENCE. FR. CANTALAMESSA CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE US OVER THE YEARS.

# HOW LOVELY ON THE MOUNTAINS

Excerpts from **Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa's** personal testimony in 2007. *Please note, this testimony has been shortened for space. You can hear the entire testimony here.* 

"It's always a problem to tell one's own testimony in the story because there is so much, so much...But anyway, I want to share with you the presence of God in my life...

In 77, 1977, I started listening about a new movement in the church.//I had difficulty in accepting this new style, new freedom, this freedom from schemes, theological schemes, the freshness, I had a difficulty in putting aside all my formation, accepting this new style. But I was open.//

So I went to America with this disposition critical, but at the same time, very curious, very fascinated, because as professor of ancient Christianity, I could see that many, many elements which were going on in this reality of the charismatic renewal where exactly the same as in the first Christian communities. So I went there. So I went there. I attended this large ecumenical rally. There were forty thousand people.//I had to say, this is really from God. This is the Holy Spirit. //

There was an Irish priest at this rally, Father Brendan Murray, a loving, a simple, loving priest who invited me to his community in New Jersey, the People of Hope and convent station, he said to me, there is a retreat there come there is a week of retreat on the Trinity.//So I accept that the least to stay there for two days. And that was the moment of decision on my life, the moment of decision.

//But I am a son of St. Francis of Assisi. I have a beautiful spirituality. What am I looking for here? What can these lay people possibly give to me? I have already St. Francis as my spiritual father, when I was saying this in my mind, a lady opened the Bible and started reading and it was the passage where St. John the Baptist says to the Pharisees, don't say in your heart, we have Abram as our father.

This is the really the way the Lord speaks many times in an assembly where the Holy Spirit is present. This is what, charismatic? The mention of a community means it's incredible, incredible, the way that directness in which God can be present in the simplest, using the simplest person, the simplest occasions.

So I stood up at that moment, I felt convinced by the Lord. I stood up. I didn't speak English. I spoke Italian. But everybody seemed to understand Italian. Another miracle. They said, God, I will not say any more that I am a son of St..Francis of Assisi because I realized that I am not. So I ask you to make out of me a true Son of St. Francis, and if baptism in the spirit is required for that, I accept the baptism in the spirit.

So we started our preparation, listening to some beautiful catechesis, rethinking our lives, trying to repent of our sins. There was a moment I will mention, because my difficulties as a priest, I realized that many times out of the normal difficulties for other priests.

So I want to share with you another difficulty was this. I was walking in the park and I had the image, I saw myself as a person on a chariot holding the reins of the chariot and trying to to be in control of the reins, whether to go slow or faster, right or left. And there was a moment when Jesus climbed over beside me on the chariot and very gently in a very simple way. Interior way. No, no, no, no visible manifestation.

He said to me, Do you want to give me the reins of your life?

Then they prayed for me. We were in the chapel. Many, many words spoken in that moment were prophetic. So they said you will experience a new joy in proclaiming my word, for instance, that I may just preach the homily on Sundays. Not, not, not, not nothing more. But later on I had to to see how true this word was. I feel I have felt a new joy in proclaiming the word of God.

But in in speaking to the people. There was a moment when somebody said, now choose Jesus as the Lord of your life. At that moment, I lifted up my eyes and I met the crucifix or hung over the altar. Another flash in a moment. And a voice was telling me, "be careful, Raniero. The Jesus, you are choosing us, Lord, is me, the crucifix, not easy Jesus, not the Rosewater Jesus."

This was important for me because I still was feeling that the charismatic renewal may be something emotionally superficial at that moment, I understood that it was really from God and it took straight to the core of the Gospel, which is the cross of Jesus, and many times later on I had to see how this word was true. It is me you are choosing.

During the journey to the airport in Newark, there was a priest who accompanied me. He put a cassette tape in the recorder and said, now listen, because the first song, it's a prophecy for you. So he was very, very excited. And the first song was How Lovely on the mountains. The feet of him will bring good news. Now, in Italy, they know that this is my song. And any time I come to any place, they start singing. How lovely. On the mountains, the feet of him.

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FR. RANIERO CANTALAMESSA

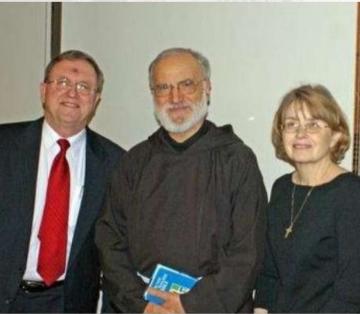
## Fr. Brendan Murray's reflects on Fr. Cantalamessa's experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit

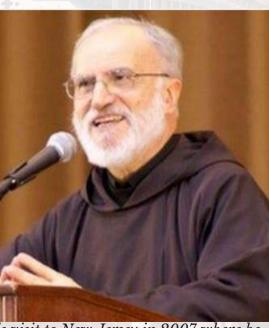
In 1977, some Italians brought Fr Cantalamessa, a professor in a Catholic University in Milan, to the ecumenical charismatic conference in Kansas City. He began to be moved by many things including the hymn "Jericho Must Fall". There he met Fr Brendan who invited him to the House of Prayer Experience. He accepted and over a few days, Fr Brendan gave him the Life in the Spirit Seminar in Italian. At the end Fr Cantalamessa in the presence of the HOPE community prayed for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. One prophecy given during that prayer saw him being used by the Lord to preach to someone on a throne. Soon Fr Cantalamessa felt led to give up teaching to give himself to preaching. After 3 years he was appointed Preacher to the Pontifical Household - preaching to the Pope, the Cardinals and a few others - which he does once a week during Advent and Lent. He has never forgotten his Baptism in the Holy Spirit at Hope and often refers to it and counts the People of Hope as his mother community. He still carries out his preaching to the Pope and the Papal Household, as well as preaching throughout the world.



#### 2002

Fr Cantalamessa at a People of Hope prayer meeting in the Bruce Weyand gym at Koinonia Academy





Fr Cantalamessa with Dave and Judy Touhill during his visit to New Jersey in 2007 where he spent some time with and preaching at an event led by the People of Hope and Seton Hall University. You can read more about the event in this article from 2007.

2007

"We proclaim Jesus as a person. We say Jesus has two natures and is God man, but he's one person. This is the most important dogmatic definition in Christology.

Jesus is one person.

The consequences if Jesus is a person, you can't relate to him, except in a personal way...

So I realize that to know Jesus means to let Jesus enter in your life as your personal Lord and Savior."

**OCTOBER 23-25** 

# THE LORD'S GREATNESS

COMPASS FALL RETREAT REFLECTION

99

During such a time where we feel so out of control, a retreat that centered around trusting the Lord was so needed, not only in my own life but I think for the community at large...

- Hailey Allegra, SPO Missionary & Compass Member

## "I HAD THE ABSOLUTE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING THIS YEAR'S COMPASS RETREAT.

During such a time where we feel so out of control, a retreat that centered around trusting the Lord was so needed, not only in my own life but I think for the community at large. We were also blessed to be able to have it held in person, which has been such a nice change of pace after so many virtual events. With masks and social distancing we were able to stay safe while being able to spend much needed time together as a community.

The retreat offered not only time for community building, but prayerful introspection as well. Thanks to our incredible speakers (shoutout to Oscar Robles, Emilie Miller, and Gabe Natural), we heard wisdom on different aspects of our trust in God, through the lenses of love, humility, and courage. One remark from Gabe stood out to me as especially prescient for our time, "The deeper the trial the deeper the conversion of heart". I can say that I have personally seen the Lord working in amazing ways through all of the struggles the world has faced recently, and I am continually impressed by Him. Whether the trials are large-scale or more personal, I find immense comfort knowing that the Lord works all things to His good.



Finally, something Emilie shared in her talk has kept coming up in my own prayer; "I don't want my goodness, I want the Lord's greatness". This has been such a helpful reminder to focus not on what goods I can accomplish on my own, but to reach out for the great things the Lord has promised. As believers, we are fortunate in that we do not have to settle for our own abilities and accomplishments, but can have faith in the Lord that He has so much better in store. This retreat really helped to reinvigorate my trust in God, which I was able to pour into the mission at Seton Hall University, and I can't wait to see how the Lord continues to work within the whole Compass community.



"I DON'T WANT MY GOODNESS; I WANT THE LORD'S GOODNESS"



IGNITE TEENS SHARE
THEIR FAVORITE THINGS
ABOUT ADVENT

## Q: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT ADVENT?

A: The season is such a joyful season! You can't be sad during advent! Through all the anticipation and waiting for Christ's birth, it is a great time to thank God for everything he's done, and to give back to everyone whose blessed me in so many ways!

A: I honestly would like to focus more on the spiritual part of Advent because I don't really have a favorite part of Advent other than making Christmas cookies and figuring out what to give people for Christmas. So I guess my favorite part about Advent is that it leads up to Christmas.

A: I like that it means Christmas is coming and how it makes everyone more joyful and giving.

## Q: WHAT TRADITIONS DOES YOUR FAMILY HAVE DURING ADVENT?

A: We light the Advent wreath and say special prayers at dinner. We also do the Jessie tree in December. I don't know if this counts as Advent traditions, but we buy the Christmas tree a week before Christmas and decorate the outside and inside of the house around the same time as well.

A. We put hay in the manger for good deeds, advent angels, and lighting the advent candles

A: We spend time visiting family more

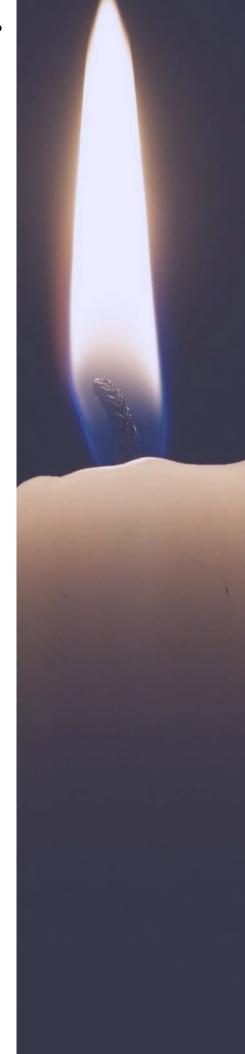
A. Putting up our Christmas tree, advent wreath & candle every week, daily prayer in preparation for Christmas.

## Q: WHAT'S ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES ABOUT ADVENT FROM GROWING UP?

A: Every year, a few of my siblings and my mom would sing in an Advent lessons and carols at St. Peter's in New Brunswick which was always so beautiful. I also have a ton of memories sitting around the dinner table decorating sugar cookies with my siblings.

A: Christmas pageant practices in elementary school at KA, singing Christmas/advent songs with everyone

A: I went on an advent retreat with a youth group called "Challenge" that I used to attend. It was a sleep away retreat and we would play games and listen to talks etc.



## Still Together

during this time apart

A reflection from the Daughters of Hope



Wednesday, November 18th, a crisp, but sunny autumn day, found 6 smiling ladies ON THE MOVE. These dear sisters, our current Daughters of Hope service team, were loving the Daughters, (now 26 in number) by presenting them with a "Thanksgiving Drive By of LOVE!" This effort began at 12:30 and finished at 4:00 as we followed the Holy Spirit idea to personally deliver a joyful greeting--- to include a delightful tune, plus SMILES galore.

We met our ladies where they were at - in their homes, apartments, assisted livings. We met our ladies in Warren, Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Stirling, Long Hill, Greenbrook, Dunellen, and Branchburg. Denise Garcia Rivers delivered a song, smile and gift to Jackie Donnelley in Morris Plains, and Perry Zipf delivered our love and package to his Mom, Ginny down in Toms River.

"We found these dear and holy women responding to us with bigger smiles than ours." We stayed 5 minutes at each location, smiling and laughing (under our masks) with each specific "Daughter of Hope." We found these dear and holy women responding to us with bigger smiles than ours. Their eyes sparkled and their hearts were filled with gratitude for this Holy Spirit gesture of love. We ALL were blessed.

Particular appreciation goes to our Planners---Sue Minogue and Mary K. Quense. Besides bringing love, we presented each sister with a thank you pumpkin with their names written on top. Our Daughter was encouraged to add thankful writing to her own pumpkin. A fancy fall towel, small pumpkin bread and written Scriptures on gratitude were added. Completing our package was a November newsletter with updates, pictures and LOVE.



So in this challenging time in history that we find ourselves and our loved ones in, our team will be seeking the Holy Spirit of love and CREATIVITY to see how we might stay in touch with our wonderful ladies. The Holy Spirit is ALWAYS ON TIME and so we are encouraged and reassured that we can keep our little group going during this time of physical distancing. This years team---Diane Tomasello, Sue Minogue, Mary K. Quense, Kathy Garcia, Denise Garcia Rivers and myself have found that big and small efforts are met with grace and inspiration on the "how to?" We are finding ourselves making use of telephones, written notes and newsletters, and the now infamous "drive by." We are finding that Love never fails both in the giving and in the receiving. JOY--Jesus, Others, You-- is alive and well in both the receivers and the givers.

"Their eyes sparkled and their hearts were filled with gratitude for this Holy Spirit gesture of love. We were ALL blessed."

#### A reflection from the Daughters of Hope

Lastly, as we move ahead one day at a time, should the Holy Spirit put one of our "Daughters of Hope" on YOUR mind and you'd like to call or write a note to one of them --- DON"T HESITATE. They will love hearing from YOU. And you will not be disappointed when you connect with one of these wise and holy women. For your Holy Spirit prayers---the Daughters of Hope include: Nancy Appert, Mary Ann Bastiaansen, Eleanor Benson, Clara Bickel, Claire Birmingham, Judy Bonnesen, Peg Camiolo, Carol Cirrotti, Kathie Dalessio, Maria Deluca, Jackie Donnelley, Ginny Gallic, Mary Alice Giegerich, Edwarda Harmon, Irma McCabe, Emma Militante, Rose Molnar, Helen O'Mullan, Mary Ann Paster, Joanne Quense, Marie Romero, Judy Touhill, Nelie Tucker, Esther VanBuskirk, Pat Weyand, Ginny Zipf. Should you need an address or phone number please call me. Norma-908 642 2257.

All the Daughters and their team praying for each of you and yours for a Blessed Advent Season. With love, Norma and team

"We are finding that Love never fails both in the giving and in the receiving. JOY--Jesus, Others, You-- is alive and well in both the receivers and the givers."



### PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK

#### **IMMEDIATE NEED**

- Paul Giegerich
- Jackie Donnelley
- Don Campbell
- Tom Cvelich
- Lou Cirrotti
- Rose Molnar

## SERIOUS & ONGOING

- Rita (Buganski) Arena
- Eleanor Benson
- Dick Birmingham
- Margaret Fierro
- Laura Greey
- Shannon Hardy
- Danielle Neri
- Lee Scarfone

## AROUND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

- Steve Clark Servants of the Word, Chelsea, MI
- Peter Smith Triumph of the Cross, MD

Please visit our website <u>peopleofhope.net/prayerintentions</u> to see our complete list of our prayer intentions and to add to our list.

## 2020 PRAYER PETITION HIGHLIGHT

## MARY STREET

We pray for a continued blessing on Mary St., that hospitality and generosity may increase even more, and that the vision for Mary St. will be preserved far into the future.

"Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude"

PHIL. 4:6

## HEALTH CARE

## HEROES

Let's continue to thank and keep in our prayers the following brothers and sisters in the People of Hope, family and friends, who are on the front lines caring for those most in need during this pandemic.

Please visit our website <u>peopleofhope.net/healthheroes</u> to see the complete list of all medical and emergency personnel we are keeping in our prayers or you would like to add someone to our list of intentions.

- Jane Apuzzo
- Marianne Benson
- Anne Cantine
- Dr. Joe Clemente
- Kathy McCabe
- Daria Moccia
- Mary Kathleen Molnar
- Kate Nordstrom
- Charlie Pepper
- Arlene Peregrin

Heavenly Father, we place in your protective hands all these healthcare workers and their families during this time. Bless their work, the patients they care for, and all affected by this virus. Amen.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

## KATHY RAVAIOLI

Born into earthly Life: March 28, 1938

Baptized: April 24, 1938

Born into Eternal Life: October 28, 2020

Catherine Ravaioli "Kathy", age 82, passed away peacefully at her home, holding the hand of her youngest child, on October 28, 2020. Born and raised in Elizabeth, NJ, Kathy married Lee at aged 18 and shared more than 64 blessed and treasured years together. Gifted with a beautiful singing voice she hummed and sang regularly, invariably eliciting joy and glory and could lighten the day with her infectious laughter.



Kathy lived her life in service to her family, friends, and religious community, joining the People of Hope in 1977. She tirelessly put others before herself and dedicated herself to being a caring wife and mother. A devout Catholic and prayer warrior, Kathy donated her time and resources to Christ the Redeemer Parish in Manville. The daughter of Vincent and Angelina LaRocca, Kathy is survived by her beloved husband, children (6 - Kevin, Keith, Kent, Lisa, Kraig, Angela), grandchildren (12) and great-grandchildren (6). She will always be remembered for her warmth and kindness and is greatly missed, loved, and cherished.

- Kathy's Family

Many mornings when I reach for my coffee mug, I think of Kathy, since it was Kathy who gave them to me. Ever since we joined the People of Hope many years ago, Kathy and I were in the same district, so we became close friends. Often, over the years, Kathy and I would accompany our husbands to Pennsylvania Dutch Country for a few days. While Dick and Lee golfed, Kathy and I would scour the outlets for the bargains of the year! Kathy had a heart for the Lord, and He gave her an eye for the best buys.

Whenever there was a job to be done, Kathy was always ready to serve, often being the first to volunteer. For example, once, during the happy years when Dick and I were living with the Apperts, Kathy and I went to Flemington to shop, got delayed and returned pretty late. It was my turn to produce dinner that day for both the Apperts and Dick and me. Kathy pitched right in and helped me get it ready on time. I remember it well, because without Kathy I could never have gotten dinner ready on time.

It is so good to look back on a friendship and have nothing but happy memories. I can see Kathy's loving face looking down on us from heaven and saying to us: "Keep up the good fight; it is so worth it!!"

- Claire Birmingham



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