



### ***Remembering Mary Buie***

***From The Most Rev. Anne Germond***

This week the Diocese of Algoma lost one of its dedicated and faithful members as Mary Buie entered into her eternal rest following a long and often difficult battle with cancer.

For over a decade Mary served as a member of the diocesan Postulancy Committee which interviews potential candidates for ordained ministry in the diocese. Mary had a wonderful ability to put the candidates at ease and ask questions that enabled our meetings to have a conversational tone. We are so grateful for Mary's gifts of wisdom and discernment on this committee.

Mary was never shy about speaking of her faith which she lived joyfully to the end. Several years ago, following her diagnosis with cancer Mary ventured into the Manitoulin Expositor newspaper and volunteered to tell her 'story' about her journey. What followed were several years worth of articles which enabled others to talk about their cancer. The final article is included in this tribute.

Thank you to present and previous incumbents of the Island parishes of Manitoulin for offering good words about this beloved and godly woman.

We offer our deepest condolences to Mary's family and parish family as they mourn her death, even as they give thanks for a life well lived.

***From Ms. Catherine Hazlitt:***

I have been impressed by Mary's joy in the gospel, her good humour, her exceptional welcoming gifts, her enjoyment of people, her courage, and her dedicated teaching and nurturing in her family, her vocation as nurse and midwife, her singing and amateur dramatics, and her ministry as Lay Reader.

***From The Ven Linda White:***

Mary was an eminently practical and faithful servant of God. She loved the Lord and she loved her church – and especially the people of Western Manitoulin and St. John's, Kagawong! Mary loved worship and especially praise songs. She was instrumental in getting a praise group going at St John's which did outreach over a couple of summers as well as offering their gifts in the parish. She loved it whenever anyone came up with a new idea and would say, "Let's just try it and see what happens!"

Mary was unfailingly cheerful and always found the bright side of things. She was an encourager and an exhorter to everyone. Whenever there was a challenge she would name it and then say brightly, "But that's all right! The Lord is in charge and we'll see what He does in the situation." She believed in the power of prayer for every kind of situation and would willingly and easily pray for others and didn't hesitate to call or to email and say that "strong prayer" was needed. It was always a pleasure to hear from her.

Her family was very important to Mary. She was a really caring mother and grandmother. She was very proud of them all and celebrated their accomplishments with joy.

Mary had been a midwife in England and once midwifery was approved in Ontario went back to school, now in midlife, to get certified as a midwife for Manitoulin. Some of it was pretty difficult, but she studied with the same passion that marked her whole life and was successful. She was passionate, compassionate, and very committed to "her moms" as she called the women for whom she was midwife. She was very hospitable and often had people in her home. She was especially kind to us as a family and often invited us to celebrate a church festival with a meal lovingly prepared.

She will be sadly missed.

***From The Rev. Rhonda Hirst:***

I had the pleasure, and the extreme honour, of knowing Mary both as a parishioner at St. John's in Kagawong but also had the opportunity to work with her, on one occasion, in her role of midwife in a very sad and difficult case. Mary, both as a parishioner, and as a midwife, was always a glowing example of what it means to love one another as God has loved us. Mary always lived out her faith, even on her most difficult of days, and also lived out her role of hospitality to all she encountered. It was truly a blessing to have been granted the gift of walking with Mary as a parishioner; as a patient when she and John would ensure they called to tell me they were coming to Sudbury to the cancer centre for an appointment and we needed to do coffee; as a midwife when she and I worked together to support a mom going through a sad time; as a friend, and too many other titles to mention here. Rest in peace dear Mary and know that your impact on not only on my own life and ministry, but on the lives of so many others, was a gift from God. Rest in peace Good and Faithful Servant.

***From The Rev. Aidan Armstrong:***

Mary had an infectious faith and shone with the light and joy of our Lord. She was a faithful servant of God in this world and knew deeply God's faithfulness to her. Everyone who walked through the door of St. John's or entered the town of Kagawong would be welcomed by the warmth and love of Mary. She is an example to us all of how to serve the Lord with joy and gladness even in the face of hardship.

***From The Ven. Dr. Jay Koyle:***

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

Mary was a woman of contagious faith and robust hope, always ready to offer a supportive word or encouraging presence, exhorting us to do the same for others. It was not unusual for me to find among my morning emails a message from Mary, voicing her thanks for something I had said or done, or simply expressing a word of confidence, offering or asking for prayer during a challenging time.

These tremendous qualities of Mary had positive impact, directly and indirectly, upon many in our Diocese through her decades of service on Algoma's postulancy committee, a body that advises the Diocesan Bishop on matters concerning the discernment of vocations to ordained ministry. Mary's enthusiasm and deep faith

served as a source of strength and inspiration for many who went on to have fruitful ministries as clergy, including our Archbishop Anne.

Thanks be to God, who surely now welcomes dear Mary with the words, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”



