## **Wellspring for Living Stones**

## A Collection of Prayers, Reflections, and More | Volume 5| May 6, 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Felician community has experienced tremendous loss. This issue of *The Wellspring* honors Sister Victoria Marie Indyk. After a lifetime of service and education, Sister Victoria was born into eternal life on Sunday, April 26, 2020.

To learn more about the lives of the 11 Felician Sisters in Livonia whose lives on Earth ended in April 2020, visit this news item:

www.bridgemi.com/michigan-healthwatch/remembering-11-felician-sisterslivonia-who-died-april The Madonna University mission is steadfast. The faculty and staff of the Mission Core Team would like to share resources rooted in the MU mission to instill Christian humanistic values, intellectual inquiry, a respect for diversity, and a commitment to serving others, to help guide our community through uncharted waters.

Jim O'Neill, MU Provost and Vice President for Academic Administration, created a video tribute honoring Sr. Victoria that can be seen at this link:

## https://youtu.be/GXQs8xQ-L3U

Sister Vicky truly lived life fully. Whatever she did, Sr. Vicky did with her whole heart and joyful spirit! And she took pictures to share with those she knew and loved. She loved to take road trips and invited others to join her. Faithfully, she attended Felician, University, and Civic events. She was happy joining in family gatherings and attentively took care of her mother and aunt as they grew older. Fishing, swimming, sharing Monarch caterpillar-raising, or playing cards or Farkle were some activities when she was not working on gathering and packing donations or holding fundraisers for Haiti or fulfilling her faculty responsibilities! We will miss her much but I know her generous heart will keep on doing whatever she can do to bring God's love and goodness into another person's life! Rest in Joy, good Colleague, Friend and Sister!

> from <u>Sister Nancy Marie Jamroz</u>, Co-Director of the Center for Catholic Studies & Interfaith Dialogue

Sr. Vickie was such a blessing. That's how so many affectionately called her, "Sr. Vicky." One gift Sr. Victoria gave me personally, was the opportunity to be involved in outreach with Urban Neighborhood Initiatives (UNI). Madonna historians agree that many years ago (like over 20 years ago), Sr. Victoria started the partnership with UNI by donating surplus furniture. From there many opportunities came for engaging with youth by means of UNI, who serve Southwest Detroit residents. The director before me, the late Kevin West, followed Sr's. lead and started the summer youth camps where youth would stay at Madonna for one week of social and academic enrichment. This resulted in hundreds of youth over several years visiting Madonna University and supporting their "college-going" aspirations.

I personally worked closely with UNI for over seven years thanks to Sr. Victoria. From academic service-learning, to special events, to donating items, she was always investing in UNI and the projects that supported young people. I remember one Halloween, I was coordinating the Madonna student volunteers to serve at a family friendly, carnival-like event. Sr. stopped by my office and handed me boxes of toys. She had tons of give-aways she said she would gather throughout the year for this particular event. I was so touched by Sr's. dedication and caring spirit. Many volunteers and community service-learning activities were often developed and/or largely supported by her ideas, gifts, and encouragement. Her reach was far and wide. Rest in Peace, Sr. Victoria. I will miss you.

**Olga Martinez, M.A.**, Interim Director, Center for Personalized Instruction / TRIO Student Support Services

I have known Sr. Victoria ever since we both started working with Taiwanese students on campus in 1996. Sr. Victoria was always friendly and helpful to all international students. Therefore, Sr. Victoria became a good friend with many international students. Sr. Vicky will be deeply missed, and all of our international students will always treasure their friendship and memory with Sr. Vicky.

**Yu-Jo Grace Philson** Director, International Students Office

A Prayer of Remembrance and Hope is available here. The Mission Core team invites you to join the campus community, as we share this prayer while we are apart, each Monday at 12:00 PM.

## Wellspring for Living Stones is updated, added to, and archived online.

If you have questions or concerns, or would like to submit materials to include, please contact Colleen McLellan in the Office of Service-Learning & Civic Engagement: <u>cmclellan@madonna.edu</u>



