

August 22, 2017

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Associate Veronica Ernstes entered her eternal rest on Monday, August 7, 2017. She was born on July 17, 1950 and was taught by the Sisters of St. Francis at St. Mary's Academy and Marian College. After graduating with a business degree she worked as a Contracting Officer for the National Guard. Veronica touched the lives of many people, leaving an impression on everyone she met, even if it was for a brief time.



“It was hard to see Veronica leave us. She was all heart, had strong beliefs, shared them and lived by them. She helped teach the little children during Mass at St. Joseph and her voice was soft and kind, she especially understood the restless child and helped to settle them down. She would do anything for anybody and was a beautiful friend.” Sister Pat Bietsch

Associate Patti Hammons reconnected with Veronica at their parish where they recognized each other as grade school companions. Once they found out that they lived three blocks from each other, they often met for lunch, baked Christmas cookies together and spent time getting reacquainted. Patti soon realized that she was welcome to stop in anytime and always felt at home. Patti recalled what was important to her. “Veronica raised her children on her own, and when they moved away from home she would still continue to buy a lot of food and cook big meals in case someone came by hungry. When she wasn't at home cooking she was traveling, often times making last minute plans, or no plans at all! During her trips to New Mexico, she would visit cousins on the way or look up family or friends and go out of her way to visit them. Veronica was an active member of her parish; she attended a Legion of Mary meeting every Tues. morning, was involved in “Solo Seniors”, and was an extraordinary Eucharistic minister.

S. Kathleen Branham ran into Veronica during the 2011 St. Mary Academy All-School reunion. Veronica was on the planning committee, and as usual, shared her resources with others. In 1970, S. Kathleen was friends with Veronica's younger sister, Ceil. Veronica wanted nothing to do with them since they were so much younger. Veronica asked S. Kathleen to walk with her during her formation to be an Associate and she signed her commitment in 2013. When S. Kathleen won the trip to Assisi, Veronica joined her since she had free transportation through the military. “We toured Europe for seven weeks and had so much fun. I had no idea that we would be visiting every cathedral in every city we went too. Veronica made the trip amazing because she visited some of the cities before. She was a great traveling companion who loved to have a good time. She was a very caring and compassionate person who always thought about others first. She will be greatly missed by many.”

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

In Loving Memory,
Carolyn Meyer