

### Memories of Sister Anne Therese McAteer

Sr Anne Therese was born in Belfast, the youngest of a large family. Before training as a nurse in 1962 at Blacknotley Hospital in Braintree, England, Anne worked for a while in the civil service and also in Insurance. She entered our Congregation on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1963 and was destined to live out most of her missionary life in various communities of the Congregation in England until she eventually returned to Ireland on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2006. She had a great love of family and concern for each and every one of them and it was obvious she had a special relationship with Declan who is here today and we know he loved his Auntie Anne – when the door of Franciscan Convent was opened, he would not stop and would run down the corridor into her arms.

Her love of music was evident in her delight to play her favourite Irish CD's whilst clapping along, keeping perfect time. She loved company and was very happy when she had visitors to her room, especially anyone who played cards or games. But she always showed her competitiveness making sure – with a twinkle in her eye – that she wasn't the loser!

Anne Therese was a woman of great faith and was devout in her daily practice of it. Even in her latter years despite of the deterioration in her health, she still approached the Altar with joined hands and great reverence for the Holy Eucharist. She had great devotion to Our Lady and said the Rosary very prayerfully to the end. She was her own person and was always very upright and sincere in her opinion and views of various topics and issues that cropped up, both in conversation and in the incidents that occurred in daily life. She was gentle, gracious and grateful, especially to our staff who cared for her here. She was a wonderful nurse and was capable of dealing with patients of all ages and status that came under her care. She was kind and considerate to her staff at all times, combining her sense of duty with her sense of wit and occasionally, with that little twinkle of mischievousness. She was also very dependable and had an ingrained sense of responsibility in carrying out whatever was entrusted to her to do. In spite of her ill health, she had no self-pity and showed the brighter side of life. She was also very domesticated and took pride in growing vegetables in the smallest of corners of the garden and could turn her hand to many tasks.

We are all aware of the shock experienced at the suddenness of Anne Therese's death. We are also aware that for Anne, it would have been what she desired. A quick exit and no fuss or bother. We will miss Anne's presence in our community for her quick wit, sense of fun and the sound of her laughter. May she rest in peace and joy in the arms of her beloved Lord, whom she served so faithfully. Amen.