

MYRON MUSICK'S TESTIMONIAL

A Tribute to our Sisters

With profound gratitude I am pleased to pay tribute to our religious sisters. My fear is that my best effort falls short of the most abundantly deserved tribute.

First I must reveal the credentials which qualify me for this task and to acknowledge the circumstances that place me in the position of possessing sufficient knowledge and experiences to speak with authority. In course of my life I have served them in their missions in the capacity they have asked of me.

As a young impressionable and precocious son I urged my very faithful mother to enroll me in catechism classes, then conducted at the old Sts. Vladimir and Olga Church on McGregor Street. This marked my first encounter with a religious sister. Classes were held in the choir loft by a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate whose name unfortunately has faded from my aging memory. Nonetheless, the immediate scene was one of awe, perhaps shaped by the severe black habits worn by all sisters. Only now do I realize the purpose that such a practice was intended to accomplish, but that is another subject. While much has faded from memory I am still able to recall scenes from those classes and indeed recall vividly, and with some trepidation, my First Solemn Confession and Holy Communion.

Later, at the age of 8, I underwent an emergency appendectomy at the St. Joseph's Hospital on Salter Street at Prichard Avenue, which I'm certain many present still remember. One need not be reminded of the terror I, a naïve youth, felt on this emergency. Happily I awoke from the anesthetic, very much relieved of the emotional experience and soon comforted by a Sister of St. Joseph's, reassuring me that our lord Jesus was with me and in His care. And surprisingly the seven day stay was a most pleasant experience of compassion from all the caring staff as well as my senior roommates.

Later in life began my enduring relationship with the Women Religious. I was invited to serve on the Board of Holy Family Home where Sr. Celestine was the Assistant Executive Director. This was soon followed by an invitation to join the Board of Misericordia Hospital, where Sr. Plamondon was the Sisters de Misericorde's Order representative on the board.

Soon I was elected to the MHO Board and concurrently to the Board of Villa Rosa. Eventually I was elected to the CHAC Board for a three year term. In these duties I met and grew to know many more devoted sisters too numerous to name.

In retirement I was hired by Sr. Hétu, of the Grey Nuns to serve as the Executive director of CHAM. In total I have served approximate 35 years with Sisters of one order or another. In this period I was very clearly informed of the tenets of the Faith while serving and witnessing the profound devotion of all the Sisters I encountered. I must also say that Sisters external to Manitoba have impressed me in devotion to their calling from presentations by Sr. Elizabeth Johnson, C.S.J, and Sr. Sandra Schneider, I.H.M. and Sr. Nualla Kenny. My religious education is almost entirely informal and learned through these associations.

To all of them I owe my gratitude, my admiration and the inspiration to my faith.

I stand in awe of our Sisters and pay a great tribute to their mission, their labours, to their delivery of both physical and spiritual care in time of need. Often they laboured fearlessly against most determined opposition but eventually prevailed. One cannot find adequate articulation of praise that meets a full measure of merit.

I extend my congratulations and good wishes as the Sisters continue in their mission and wish an abundance of God's Blessings upon them.

Thank You

Myron Musick