

THE CARDINAL COOKE GUILD

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE CAUSE OF CANONIZATION OF CARDINAL COOKE

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THE CARDINAL COOKE CATHOLIC CENTER
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Heartfelt Farewell To a Remarkable Woman

Dear Members and Friends,

Our beloved Sister Aloysius McBride, O.Carm. entered into eternal life on December 3, 2009. Sister had been a resident, for the last several years, at Mary Manning Walsh Home in New York City, a Home that she helped build more than forty years ago. The Carmelite Sisters and the staff at MMWH were true angels in the loving care they ministered to her. Family and friends will be always grateful.

Sister was our shepherd at the Cardinal Cooke Guild. She will be remembered with love and grateful thanks for all she has done for so many.

There are so many stories to tell about Sister Aloysius. She led a very full life, touching so many people. We, at the Guild, knew her as the Founder and Coordinator of the Cause of Canonization of Terence Cardinal Cooke. Cardinal O'Connor asked the Carmelite Community if Sister could take on the leadership of the Guild. She had been a friend of Cardinal Cooke from their early days working together on issues of the aged and infirm. Father Benedict Groeschel often says that Sister was one of the first to call Cardinal Cooke a saint after his death. Who better to take on the voice of the people and herald the Cardinal's virtuous life?

The Guild was home for Sister Aloysius for almost twenty years. She asked her dear friend Joan Coleman, with the help of Marie Strahl, Marie Thorman, and Helene Callahan, to help her reach out to those who knew the Cardinal and to share with others the saintly life of a man so many held in extreme regard.



Sister Aloysius McBride

Sister guided the Cause with great care. She brought together a committed band of volunteers who, through her leadership and their professional skills, spread the word about the life of a holy and dedicated priest. She was our teacher. She instilled in us a love of the Cardinal and taught us to be good to one another. Sister understood that each of us had a special talent which she nurtured and encouraged. In the office, she was our Mother Aloysius. This fine woman did everything with dignity, professionalism, and ease. Truly a remarkable woman of the Church!

The life of Cardinal Cooke was one of caring for his fellow man and Sis-



Sister Aloysius, Founding Coordinator of the Cardinal Cooke Guild with her successor Pat Handal

ter's superb writing skills enabled her to paint his story in the Guild's newsletters. As a young priest and throughout his life, Cardinal Cooke organized groups of Catholics to foster a community of fellowship. Sister Aloysius did the same with the many Guild volunteers. The Guild volunteers traveled with her to spread the word to parishes about this saintly man. She created an atmosphere of friendship and caring for those around her at the Guild. Who could possibly forget sitting around her desk and eating tomato and onion sandwiches? Lots of laughter and lots of fellowship! She replicated the Cardinal's life with the work the volunteers did to promote his Cause of sanctification.

Sister has left the Guild volunteers and membership a great legacy. She introduced us to a very special man, who hopefully will someday be called a saint. She brought all of us together with a common goal. Each in our own way is better for having had Sister Aloysius in our lives. Hopefully, we will be able to complete her devoted work.

The friendship of Sister was a treasured gift. How privileged we were to have known Sister and call her friend.

Sister Aloysius will be greatly missed but not forgotten.

Most sincerely,

Pat

Patricia Handal
Coordinator
The Cardinal Cooke Guild

So Many Fond Memories . . .



Jean Hickey, Sister Aloysius and Larry Hickey



John Cardinal O'Connor, Sister Aloysius, Father James Hurley and Sister M. Stephen at a Luncheon of Friends of the Cardinal Cooke Guild held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel



Patricia Sica, Sister Rose Patrice, Sister Aloysius, Father James Hurley, Sister Edmund and Barbara Bennett



Pictured at the Closing Ceremony, December 19, 2006 ending the Diocesan phase of Cardinal Cooke's Canonization Process:
Seated: Msgr. Charles McManus, Sister Aloysius, Edward Cardinal Egan, Msgr. John Harrington
Standing: Msgr. Douglas Mathers, Msgr. Thomas Gilleece, Mrs. Pegge Cooke, Msgr. Robert Samo, Mrs. Patricia Handal, Msgr. Joseph Giandurco and Mrs. Ann Cicchelli



Sister Aloysius with Guild Volunteers including Betty Mumm, Emily Sak, Margaret Quealy, Janet McNeely, Patricia Dillon, Mary Gebbia, Marie Thorman, Joan Coleman and Therese Lanna



Mrs. Patricia Handal with several Guild Volunteers including Theresa Mallon, Barbara Bennett, Barbara Ptak, Marie Thorman, Bridget Hackett and Mary Blanchfield



Edward Cardinal Egan presenting Sister Aloysius with The Cardinal Cooke Right to Life Award

So Many Fond Memories . . .



A young Sister Aloysius, left, with two future candidates for Sainthood, Cardinal Cooke and Mother M. Angeline, Founder of the Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm.



Sister Aloysius, Cardinal O'Connor, Governor and Mrs. Robert Casey and Father Benedict Groeschel at the presentation of the Cardinal Cooke Right to Life Award to Governor Casey of Pennsylvania



Sister Aloysius with Terence Cardinal Cooke



Sister Edmund and Sister Aloysius Dear Friends for over 60 years.



Joan Coleman, Father James Hurley of England and Sister Aloysius



Canon John Andrew of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Sister Aloysius and Father Robert Robbins Pastor of Holy Family Church

Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, Patricia Dillon, Sister Aloysius and Bishop John Nolan



Sister Aloysius and Kathleen O'Connell-Murphy at the crypt of Terence Cardinal Cooke

Sister Aloysius, Grace Pearl, Helene Callahan, Theresa Mallon, Patricia Combs, Marie Emsworth and Betty Mumm



A long and fruitful life. . .

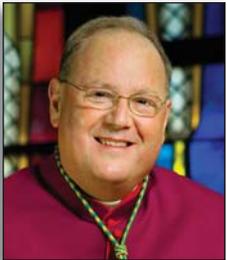
by Claudia McDonnell
Catholic New York

Sister M. Aloysius McBride, O. Carm., founder and first coordinator of the Cardinal Cooke Guild and a devoted worker for the cardinal's cause of canonization, died Dec. 3 at Mary Manning Walsh Home in Manhattan. She was 91.

Before heading the Guild, she had spent her religious life in service to the elderly with the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 10 in the chapel at Mary Manning Walsh by Auxiliary Bishop Gerald T. Walsh, rector of St. Joseph's Seminary. The homilist was Father Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R., the author and speaker, who formerly was diocesan postulator for the cause of Cardinal Cooke.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan, in a statement read at the Mass, expressed regret that he could not be present. He said that he had not known Sister Aloysius, but added, "I have been told of her dedicated service to the Church as a faithful Carmelite. By all accounts she was a very special person and woman religious." He added that he had offered Mass for the repose of her soul.



"She was a very special person and woman religious."

—Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan

Father Benedict, in his homily, described Sister Aloysius as not only a true New Yorker but also "a quintessential Manhattanite" who accomplished great work for her order and the Guild "quietly, prayerfully, generously, humbly," and with rock-solid determination.

He recalled that he encountered her outside St. Patrick's Cathedral immediately after Cardinal Cooke's funeral, and that she remarked that holy people in ancient times were "canonized by popular acclaim." If that were still true, she continued, Cardinal Cooke would have been canonized that very day,

because "he's a saint."

Sister Aloysius began promoting the cause in 1984 at the invitation of John Cardinal O'Connor. At the time, she was superior and administrator of St. Patrick's Home in the Bronx, and was known to many as Mother Aloysius. She left St. Patrick's to found the Guild and to serve as its first coordinator, a post she held until her retirement in 1999. She was succeeded by Patricia Handal, the current coordinator, but continued as a consultant.

When Sister Aloysius retired, Father Benedict said, "Without her contribution of these many years, the cause actually would not exist."

Mrs. Handal said that Sister Aloysius will be remembered for "her perseverance, her love of Cardinal Cooke and her total dedication" to the Guild and the cause. She noted that Sister Aloysius put the Guild on a firm footing by choosing colleagues who would carry the work forward.

As coordinator, Sister Aloysius fostered devotion to Cardinal Cooke internationally. The Guild, which is based at the Cardinal Cooke Catholic Center in Manhattan, now has chapters in Europe and Asia and members throughout the world.

The Guild honored Sister Aloysius with its Cardinal Cooke Right to Life Award in 2000. The award stated that she had shown

"a charism of compassion for those who are hurting, a calling of caring for those who are in pain."

Born in County Tyrone, Ireland, she immigrated to the United States with her family as a child and settled in the Bronx. One of the pioneering members of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, she entered in 1935 and professed final vows in 1941.

Her full religious name was Sister Mary Aloysius of Jesus Crucified.

She was superior and administrator of three homes for the elderly: St. Patrick's in the Bronx, 1979-1984 and 1952-1960; Mary Manning Walsh, 1960-1975; and

St. Francis in Laconia, N.H., 1949-1952.

In the 1960s she supervised construction of Mary Manning Walsh's new, 18-story facility. She was one of the founding members of the American Association of Homes for the Aging, which honored her in 1979 for promoting the dignity of the older person.

From 1954 to 1966 she served two consecutive terms as a member of the order's general council. She was novice mistress from 1947 to 1949.

She had resided at Mary Manning Walsh since she became coordinator of the Cardinal Cooke Guild.

Sister Aloysius was predeceased by her seven siblings, including Sister Stephen McBride, O. Carm., who died in August, 2009.



I make the words of St. Paul my own to express my heartfelt gratitude

"I thank my God whenever I think of you; and every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the good news from the day you first heard it right up to the present.

It is only natural that I should feel like this towards you all, since you have shared the privileges which have been mine.

You have a permanent place in my heart, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more so that you can always recognize what is best."

God and Mary Bless You

Sister M. Aloysius