

## **Mystery and Miracle beyond explanation**

Maureen Dunn's life was both mystery and miracle beyond explanation.

There was not just one miracle in her life, but over and over again, the miraculous became ordinary.

Under "Mo's" high school year book picture is the following quote from Shakespeare:

“All the world is a stage and all the men and women merely players.

They have their exits and entrances and one in his time plays many parts.”

Is this not appropriate?

From her earliest days Maureen was truly an actress and, at times, a Drama Queen.

She enjoyed every minute of play and she did so enjoy playing her part in the story that was her life.

She was a prankster, witty and quick.

At the same time, she could see straight to the heart of the matter with compassion.

Her life experiences made her so aware of the lights and shadows of another's heart.

Is that not a miracle?

Maureen entered the Sisters of Charity in 1960 and by 1962 was diagnosed with a brain tumor. It was Sr. Agnes Connolly that kept at the Doctors until there was a true diagnosis.

Mother Loreto Bernard then spoke to Maureen and her parents about going home to die with her family surrounding her or to stay in the Novitiate.

Maureen had long conversations with her parents. "I want to stay" and stay she did!

Through all the ups and downs, her commitment was firm and true. What courage.

Is that not a miracle?

Sister Martin Meehan placed the relic of Mother Seton on Maureen and the whole Congregation prayed – yes, a miracle!

Thank you, Pat Reardon ... you began as her nurse in those early days of recovery and grew into a very dear friend.

How does one describe the way Maureen brought every gift of heart and being into her ministries? Her faith, trust and love for God and in the Congregation can be seen in her living the Mission of Jesus.

Whether as secretary at St. Vincent's or her work at Lincoln Hall, Incarnation, St. Joseph's, St. Peter's, as Mission Coordinator for the congregation, or at Mary the Queen as a volunteer, she brought and left a piece of her heart. She had such a sense that she was loved by God and was surrounded by that love. She could do no less than to pour out her love to others in her own unique Maureen way.

Those who have journeyed with Maureen have caught insights into the depths of this love. Her love of poetry and her art work are expressions of a rich interior life. She knew what and who mattered in her life.

Her values enabled her to be attuned to the needs of others. Is that not a miracle of grace!

Maureen was an educator par excellence and her years in the schools are the stuff of legends. For her, no one could be left on the side lines. All who crossed her path were part of her community. Her goodness could not be told in a single story.

She stayed with you well beyond a crisis or need. She remained faithful, especially to her friends and they, to her.

I know Maureen would want me to thank: Maureen Connolly, Winnie Sweeney, Marie Morris, Betty Donovan, Margaret O'Brien and Ann Costello, You eased her passing with your love, presence and care.

Margaret Dean, Barbara and Steve --ever faithful --your love traveled many a mile to surround her these last days.

There are so many others to name but your names are in her heart and you are treasured. To all who loved and cared for Maureen at the Queen, Cabrini and Cabrini hospice, thank you.

It was you, her aides, who understood her, her speech and her needs when no one else could. Thank you for loving her as you did.

Where did the vitality of Maureen's life come from? She was more than a physical miracle. She was a miracle of the heart.

“I have no complaints.”

“I have no pain.”

“I am always taken care. My congregation loves me and I love every one of my Sisters.”

“Thank you for getting that for me.”

Gratitude oozed out of her.

Her sense of humor and play was amazing. As we reflect on her life, how could we not remember her peace and joy?

Even in her last days, there was peace and calm.

Maureen, you are the miracle. Enjoy your freedom!

And continue to stay close -- heart to heart.

Be at peace.