**Sister Patricia Anne Corbey, snjm**

**1954-2019**

**Good evening. While it is a privilege and honor to speak about our dear sister Pat, it is also somewhat daunting to follow Glen Willis! I actually did this once before in this church at Sister Pat’s Silver Jubilee of profession. I never thought I would be giving Pat’s eulogy.**

**If you have ever given a contribution to Catholic Relief Services, you have likely received envelopes like this (hold up) - containing “Angel Coins”! Sister Pat used these with some of her younger clients. She gave them angels to hold – to keep fear away.**

**In May, 1990, prior to making her final vows here in this Church as a Sister of the Holy Names, Sister Pat wrote:**

**“The challenge for the future I present to myself and my Congregation, is that we consciously and systematically work to eliminate fear.**

**It is fear. I believe that keeps us from moving forward, from taking risks, from facing the complex ecclesial issues that limit our lives, and from living as visible lights of God’s presence in our world.**

***This fear is located within us, and with our Church, culture and world. The fear I know in myself and in others prevents forgiveness, retains the barriers of class, and allows us to look away from the needs and changes that are necessary to live in fidelity to God.***

***I hope that we can live unafraid, insecure and uncertain – except in the claim that God is in love with all of us.”* P.C.**

**Pat also wrote: *“I am most happy when someone I am working with in therapy begins to feel unconditionally loved, valued, and touched by God. I consider it a sacred privilege to participate in the healing process of another human being. My only interest is not getting in God’s way.”***

**Many people here have known that healing process, some in therapy, and others in friendship; we know that you will miss Sister Pat’s healing way of listening more than others.**

**Some of us here knew Pat as a sister who was part of your family life - most of you since birth – each of you with your unique relationship to her and her relationship with you.**

**Some of us knew Pat as the storyteller, captivating young children with stories that might continue with many magical episodes and chapters that were never-ending. One of the Byrdy boys who is an altar server can tell you about that!**

**Some of us knew Pat as the gourmet cook who made potato and leek soup on cold days – bringing that or a delicious quiche to heal both body and soul.**

**Some of us knew Sister Pat as a Board Member who asked questions that made us look at things differently.**

**Some of us knew Pat as the creative arranger of flowers for a party, a bridal shower, even for weddings.**

**Some of us knew Pat as a wisdom-figure, a listener, a friend who could be trusted to keep a deep confidence.**

**Some of us were privileged to know Pat as our Sister of the Holy Names, our Sister in religion, with whom we lived, prayed, planned and played.**

**We undoubtedly knew Pat would be the best-dressed Sister at any gathering – looking like she just stepped out of Lord & Taylor!**

**Think about how you knew Pat, who she was for you, what you will most miss about her in your life. Let us treasure those precious memories.**

**Believing as we do in the Good News as proclaimed by Luke, Jesus says: “they can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise.**

**That the dead will rise was made known in the Hebrew bible passage about the bush, when Moses, who was rescued at birth by the midwives, Shiprah and Puah, called the Most High, the God of Sara and Abraham, the God of Isaac and Jacob, the God of Ruth and Naomi; God is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living, for to the Holy One, all are alive.**

**After three days, on Easter Sunday, long ago, Jesus rose in glory saying: “Do not be afraid, it is I!”**

**This Easter Sunday, our dear Sister Pat entered into eternal life to live forever with her God and those she loved who have gone to prepare a place for her.**

**We will miss Pat. Let us cherish her memory, and live our lives with the same spirit that Pat shared with each of us.**

**Be not afraid!**

**Good-bye dear friend, until we meet again.**

**Jo’Ann De Quattro, snjm**

**May 1, 2019**