



## OBITUARY

Sr Mannes Fourie OP

03.03.1928 – 30.07.2019



All who joy would win,  
must share it.  
Happiness was born a twin.

Lord Byron



Sr. Mannes was born on 3 March 1928 to Emma and Stephan Fourie. She and Sr. Dominic Mary were twins. At baptism, she was named Dorothea Wilhelmina. They had two brothers who were very much older than they were. Their mother died when they were three years old and their father took responsibility for their upbringing. This was difficult for him to do so he employed the services of a governess whom he later married. Sr. Mannes spent the first part of eight years of schooling at Sunnyside School in Pretoria and then at Volksskool in Heidelberg. She completed her Commercial Junior Certificate in 1945 and spent two years at Johannesburg Business College.

During their years of employment (7 years as typists at the Child Welfare Office in Johannesburg) the twins, as they were commonly called, found a place to live at Mazenod (now Koinonia), our hostel in Judith's Paarl, Johannesburg. Having been brought up in the Dutch Reformed Church they were suspicious of the "nuns" but were surprised by the kindness and the warm welcome they received from the Sisters. They soon found themselves joining the Sisters for prayers and Holy Mass. They became Catholics while at Mazenod, much to the fury of their father and the Dutch Reformed Minister. As time passed, their father realized how happy they were and eventually became a Catholic himself.

They later joined the Convent, were professed on 14 July 1955 at Oakford and made final profession on 16 July 1958. They were first assigned to teach at St. Mary's at Oakford, but that proved a disaster. They had no talent for teaching or for being boarders' Mother to the students. They were finally sent for training in nursing. The training in general nursing was arranged to take place at Glen Gray Mission Hospital in Queenstown. They also spent time training in Midwifery at St Augustine's in Durban and at the Queen Victoria in Johannesburg.

They were assigned to Marymount where they nursed and worked in the office, then to Marifont Maternity Hospital in Pretoria and finally to Oakford Infirmary. For the people who could not tell them apart, especially the hospital staff and doctors, there were many embarrassing encounters of confusion. One would speak to Sr. Mannes in the ward and then immediately meet her in the ward downstairs! For those of us who lived with them it became easy to distinguish who was who. Sr. Dominic Mary was timid and gentle while Sr. Mannes was loud. She always seemed to protect her sister. They were sometimes transferred to different communities and this was very difficult for them as they missed each other greatly, and in those days the telephone was not as easily accessible as it is today.

They were very happy caring for their patients and spent much time caring for Eileen, the sister of Archbishop Hurley, who was paralysed. They also had a heart for the poor and would save a portion of their allowance to share with the beggars on the street. We presumed that Sr. Mannes would not live long after her sister died but we were wrong. She lived a long healthy life, serving God in her sisters and sharing God's love with the residents of Villa Assumpta. She picked out those who were lonely and visited them regularly while she was mobile. One of the residents was very sad when visits from Sr. Mannes came to an end. She missed the friendship but found it difficult to walk down the ramp to visit.

Sr. Mannes had a short period of illness after a fall and could no longer walk. She longed to join her sister whom she knew was preparing a place for her with the Lord. I am certain there was great rejoicing in heaven on 30 July 2019 when she found herself in God's embrace surrounded by the many people she loved and served. May God grant her the reward of eternal rest and peace and may she pray for those of us who wait here on earth to join her.

*RIP*