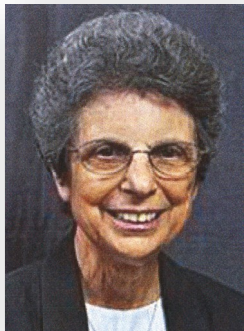


Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Celebrates Sr. M. Lillian Quadrella, R.S.M.



My Journey

October 15, 1939, Mary and Joe Quadrella were married at Sacred Heart Church, in Savannah, Georgia. Immediately following the ceremony my parents moved to Oakland, California, for business.

Frances Joan Quadrella (Sr. Mary Lillian) was born in Oakland on March 13, 1941. My mom missed her large family and many friends, so, in 1943, the Quadrella family moved back to Savannah. My sister, Carmela, was born on May 10th, 1946, in Telfair Hospital, Savannah.

My dad had been an animator with Walt Disney in the '30's, so he had no trouble securing a position at Southeastern Shipyard, Savannah, as a template designer for the Liberty Ships going to Europe during WWII. During this time, Mom worked as a clerk at the same facility. Southeastern Shipyard moved their workers into newly built homes on Pennsylvania Ave- my Kindergarten year was at Moore Avenue School on Skidaway Road, not too far from home.



Confirmation, 1949

My Catholic education began in the 1st grade at Cathedral School, located on the corner of Abercorn and Charlton Streets. This is where the Sisters of Mercy became the cornerstone for my strong religious foundation. The Sacraments of Penance and First Holy Communion were received at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, May, 1949.



Mom & Dad, 1940

Our family later moved to 52nd and Ash Street which brought me to the 3rd Grade at Blessed Sacrament School. After graduating from Blessed Sacrament School in 1955, St. Vincent's Academy set the educational scene for me until graduation in 1959. I had



8th Grade, BSS 1955

always wanted to be a secretary, but I knew in my heart that I had a calling to the religious life as a nun. I had a rude awakening, when in my junior year, my advisor informed me that upon entering the convent, I would in fact be attending college. In addition from switching tracts from business to college prep, I had to attend Savannah High School to make up 2 math classes the summer before I entered the



SVA, 1959

Religious Sisters of Mercy (RSM) Novitiate and Mt. St. Agnes College in Baltimore, Maryland.

September, 1959: Training in the Novitiate and House of Studies, and attending college classes in the State of Maryland brought challenges for an 18 year old from the sunny, slow paced region of South Georgia. Living a very structured and 'scheduled life-style' of praying, meals, studying and retiring took some adjustment.

1964, began my 30 years in the field of Education, teaching in our schools in Bessemer, Alabama; Huntsville, Alabama; Atlanta, Georgia; Savannah, Georgia and Pensacola, Florida.



White Veil Ceremony
1960

Mt. deSales Retirement Convent in Macon, Ga. brought me to a new ministry, that of caring for our retired Sisters. The 12 years as Administrator and caregiver for the Sisters helped me to realize how one could grow older courageously and gracefully.



Sr. Lillian's First teaching assignment, 1964

When the last Sister of Mercy living in the convent died in Macon, I moved back to Savannah, and have been working in the Missions Department at St. Joseph's Hospital for the last 15 years.

Blessed Sacrament Church had been the heart of my family's religious education, weddings, funerals and cherished memories, so there was no question that I would again become part of this Parish. Even though over the years I've witnessed changes in our family with the deaths of my dad, my sister and my mom, the outward changes in our Religious Community and liturgical and other changes in our Church, I have the faith to believe that God is in control. Being obedient to our Church and my Community by trying to put on the virtues of Jesus, has brought me much peace.

In 1969, my first year back in Savannah after entering the Sisters of Mercy, I was introduced to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal at our Sacred Heart Church. I was refreshed by the new hymns I was learning and was brought to a different level of prayer through Scripture. But it was not until 12 years later, on Oct. 3, 1981, in Pensacola, Florida, that I surrendered and asked for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, not a sacrament, but a deepening and awakening of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation which I had received as a child. My adult assent caused my world to go from 'black and white' to 'full color'! It has been 38 years, and every day, no matter what situation presents itself, I'm learning to depend on God, even for my next breath. The goodness of God knows no bounds!

To anyone considering Religious life or Priesthood - the best place to begin is on your knees. If you are wondering if the sacrifice of marriage is worth a life with Jesus as your dearest Friend or only Spouse: would you be willing to give God a chance? Would you be willing to help fill up with your gifts what is lacking in the Body of Christ? Our Pastor, Fr. Brett Brannen will be happy to direct you to the steps you need to take. Just give God a chance!

+Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless His holy Name!

-Sr. M. Lillian Quadrella, R.S.M



Perpetua Vows, 1967



Perpetual Vow Ceremony, August, 1967