

Sister Dolores (St. Timothy) Oakes, CSJ
December 23, 1933 – March 14, 2016

Dolores, born in Minneapolis, was a Christmas gift for two older brothers, Chuck and Jim. She was followed by the younger boys, Tom and Terry. Their loving parents were Rayford L. Oakes and Agnes Swanson.

Try as she did, a favorite Aunt Dode, an earliest New York City Rockette Dancer, was unsuccessful in getting Doe on the dance stage, but, oh, what a star she became on the stage of life!

Doe lived, fully alive, with “eyes open, ears attentive and spirit alert.” She continuously worked to alleviate pain and suffering. As teacher, principal, administrator, social worker and neighbor, Doe included everyone in her love and care. She saw needs and responded, especially for those living on the margins, the less noticeable. Forever, Doe collected clothes, household items, and bread to distribute to them. Long before Christmas, she would contact different churches to get on their Jessie Tree with a list of new items that would help low income employees provide gifts for their families.

Springtime drew Doe to her garden. Biting into a red, juicy home grown tomato was high on her enjoyment list. Affording others the same opportunity, especially residents at St. Anthony Park Home where she ministered for 29 years, brought her and them immense joy.

An eye for beauty was reflected in Doe’s photography. Diminishing sight did not lessen her skill for taking great pictures which she generously shared through photo cards and enlarged, framed images of flowers, birds, landscapes and people.

Doe was known for arriving early. She carried an air of “holy disquietude”, never quite settling down but looking ahead, searching for what the dear neighbor might next be asking of her.

Frequently, tags were visible on Doe’s clothing. These tags were not famous brand labels, but rather bore the name of the last user. The garment she wore always was “continual joy of spirit.” Doe was a portrait of a faithful Sister of St. Joseph, striving always for love of God and neighbor without distinction.

Our consolation in her leave-taking is that her wonderful warm spirit lives on in the many students she influenced at parish schools: St. Patrick, St. Luke, Good Shepherd, St. John and Holy Spirit; the staff and residents at Bethany Convent

where she served as administrator; the folks at St. Anthony Park where Doe was the Director of Social Services and later Pastoral Care Giver; in family, Sisters, Consociates, friends, and dearest friends: Suzanne Herder, CSJ and Barbara Carroll.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rayford Lorenze Oakes and Agnes Swanson, her brothers, Chuck and Jim, and her nephew, Michael. She is survived by her brothers Tom (Connie), Terry (Kathy); sisters-in-law Doris and Clare; many nieces, nephews, loving friends, colleagues and Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates.

The life of Dolores Oakes, CSJ, a contemplative in the messiness of ordinary life, was celebrated in Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel at St. Joseph's Provincial House on Monday, March 21, 2016. Interment was in Resurrection Cemetery. Doe now rests in the love and peace of the Giver of all Life.

Written by Mary Hasbrouck, CSJ