

**Sister Ann Matthew Lorusso, SC**  
Entered eternal life on September 12, 2020

For over 160 years the Sisters of Charity have ministered primarily in two areas: in education and in healthcare. In our educational ministries we strive to continue the **teaching** ministry of Jesus by serving as teachers, principals, counselors, tutors, and librarians. And in our healthcare ministries, we strive to continue the **healing** ministry of Jesus by serving as doctors and nurses, technicians and therapists, pastoral counselors and administrators. Sister Ann Matthew (affectionately known as SAM - and Dora to her family) for more than 60 years carried on the healing ministry of Jesus.



Just as Jesus restored sight to the blind, raised the dead, opened the ears of the deaf, and strengthened the limbs of those who were crippled, so too did Ann heal, raise up, open ears, and strengthen limbs. She did this both within the walls of hospitals and beyond them. She nursed at the bedside and she traveled out to parishes of many denominations. She led initiatives for systems and she participated in board and committee meetings. Through it all, she touched the lives of many, enabling both physical healing and wholeness. Not only did Ann serve in various units of the hospital, she also ministered in the hallways, the cafeteria, the meeting table and the Foundation dinner table. In each of these places she continued the healing ministry of Jesus.

In addition to being a healer, Ann was also a lover, for she deeply loved the people with whom she shared life. I'd like to speak of three fierce loves that Ann had: love for her family, love for her community (the Sisters of Charity), and love for St. Raphael's.

Ann was lucky to live in the area in which she grew up - New Haven, CT. As a result she could spend quality time with her family without much travel. How she enjoyed family gatherings, dinners, and celebrations! She often spoke tenderly of the love her sister and brother-in-law, Rose and Gene, shared. She also enjoyed good times with her many cousins and with the family's many generations: her niece Tina and nephew Gene (wife Heather); her grandnieces and nephews Matt, Deanna (husband Cameron) and Christopher (fiancée Yessey); and her great-grands Gigi and Luca. And she was certainly well cared for these last weeks by her nephew and niece, Gene and Heather.

Ann also deeply loved her religious family, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. She had a well-worn path to NJ which she often made in record time. When with her once on the trip, I came to understand why her travel time was so short, she drove totally in the left lane! I remarked that the left lane is generally for passing while the middle lane is designated for traveling. She responded by giving me the car keys to drive back! Ann was a faithful member of the Congregation, actively attending Assemblies and Congregation Days, serving on committees, engaging fully with members especially those in her band, in the Motherhouse (where she always left boxes of chocolates), and in the Villa, and living the life in ministry, community and prayer.

And, Ann fiercely loved the Hospital of St. Raphael, giving the vast majority of her ministry years to its patients and personnel, ministry and mission. She was a graduate of the School of Nursing at St. Raphael and was very involved in its alumni association. She extended the mission through her involvement in the Foundation and in parish nursing and other areas of outreach. Truly she saw herself as a community nurse. Walking the halls with her took a long time as she stopped to talk to many, and attending a function with her was like accompanying a celebrity! Ann and her dear friend Sister Anne

Virginie, gave their lives to St. Raphael's and their names are imprinted not only in the hallway pictures, but also in the lives and hearts of all who are part of this house of healing.

Ann did have a fourth great love in life, but it is one we didn't share - the Yankees. You have to understand that I am a Bostonian. She certainly loved all sorts of sports, but was passionate about the arch rivals of the Red Sox. With utmost hospitality, she would always put the Red Sox on TV when I visited during the baseball season, though she didn't root for them.

As I conclude, I would like to give special mention to all who cared for Ann over these past few weeks, both at Yale New Haven and at St. Raphael's. We were all delighted that she was able to go home to St. Raphael's last week, thanks to the advocacy of Cindy Von Beren, where she was surrounded by the loving care of those on Celantano 4, as well as her many visitors and pastoral ministers. They did everything possible to make her comfortable and peaceful. They too continue the healing ministry of Jesus, similar to the many ways Ann did throughout her life.

Sister Ellen Dauwer, SC