

REFLECTION ON THE LIFE OF SR. MARY WHITE

June 3, 1933 – October 22, 2025

by Roisin Gannon, pbvm

PBVM NL Unit Leader

October 2025

On behalf of all of us Presentation Sisters, I welcome you here this evening to celebrate the life of Sister Mary White.

Sister Mary White was born on 3/6/1933 in Stephenville on the west coast of the island, to parents Joseph and Esther White (Marche). She was baptised Mary Emerentia. She had 7 siblings, Albert, Nicholas, Percy, Roy, Everette, Rita and Sheila. Leaving to mourn now are her brothers Roy and Everette, and her sister Sheila, who cannot be with us this evening. We send them our blessings and prayer as they mourn the loss of their beloved sister Mary.

Mary joined the Presentation Sisters 1951 and was finally professed in 1959 as Sister Sylvester. So for 74 years Mary lived the Presentation Way of Life, carrying her lantern of Nano Nagle where ever she went. She taught and led in many places across the island.....Trepassey, Torbay, Assumption Convent, Port au Port. She was Librarian and Treasurer in Torbay, St. Patrick's, Piccadilly, Motherhouse and helped with the finances in the Provincialate Office. The comments on the Obituary notice say she was a kind and gentle teacher with a good sense of humour. I concur with that...when visiting her on the Nano Nagle Floor, I could catch that twinkle in her eye!

Mary had a French background. Her name was originally Le Blanc but people with that surname over time changed it to White. Mary was true to her French heritage and loved to speak her native tongue. Emma and herself met frequently to chat in French...both keeping their heritage alive.

Mary loved to help the students who found it difficult to learn and gave of her time after school to help these much loved students. Some of the Sisters here were taught by her in Grade 8/9 and speak very highly of her teaching. She was methodical, well prepared and researched, and imparted her knowledge in a clear and understandable way. She made

sure you paid attention and if at the end of the year you fell short.....it certainly was not Mary's fault.

Carmel and Mary were good friends, sitting together at meals each day. They shared laughs and fun. When Carmel died last week, Mary was noted to say..."I am next". How right she was!

On her memory card is written Ps 42

"As the deer longs for running streams,

So my soul longs for you my God.

Send me your light and your truth,

Let these be my guide

To lead me to your holy mountain,

And to the place where you live".

Mary, your search is now over. You have found your holy mountain and the place where you now live is holy.

Mary you touched our lives in many ways. The fun, the laughter, the twinkle in those brown eyes, your deep faith and prayer.all added to the person you were. We ask you to continue to walk with us, to guide us and help us to carry our lanterns. Rest gently Mary, in the loving arms of God.

Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.