

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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A Valiant Woman.

She died last week at the age of eighty. Her whole lifetime was spent in County Limerick, Ireland. But she wanted to travel. Her dream was to cross the water to see Notre Dame to whom she had given five of her twelve children. Three left home to become nuns at St. Mary's. Two became priests, one a Holy Cross Father and the other a parish priest in a neighboring diocese.'

The Bulletin asked prayers for her a few days ago. The announcement read: deceased, mother of Father Michael Mulcaire, CSC and Gene of the Dining Hall staff. Her life as well as her death you should know about, for her deep Faith will strengthen yours.

"There was never an unhappy day in my life," she told her children, and she was not joshing with them. She had her crosses and daily disappointments, but she lived so much for God that He placed a hidden happiness down in a corner of her heart, the same unseen happiness that He gives to all who serve Him well.

In Ireland if you take away the kitchen you take away God's special sanctuary. It was around the pots and pans and the wood stove that the twelve children learned about the Rosary.

Every night after supper, the dozen of them would line up, according to size, in front of the father and mother. All would kneel on the kitchen floor and each would take his or her turn in leading the rosary, a decade at a time. Then when all was over each hung his rosary on the kitchen wall.

You may have heard of Father Ward's book, "God In An Irish Kitchen.". Well, so He was in the Mulcaire home. But when May came around, His Blessed Mother was given additional honor. Up went the May altar with the statue of Mary. Flowers always adorned it, because this mother arranged for the children to take turns in picking fresh buds daily to place at Our Lady's feet.

It was inevitable that vocations to the religious life would come to this family. Such deep devotion seems always to bring the blessing of a vocation from Almighty God. And when this mother saw evident signs of God's special designs on some of her sons and daughters, she impressed on all that once they heard the call, they were to go and not worry about her support -- for she was convinced that God would provide. And He did.

Scripture says of the valiant woman that "The heart of her husband trusteth in her ...she hath considered a field, and bought it; with the fruit of her hands she hath planted a vineyard...she hath put out her hand to strong things, and her fingers have taken hold of the spindle. She hath opened her mouth to wisdom, and the law of clemency is on her tongue: she hath looked well to the paths of her house, and hath not eaten her bread idle." This was a valiant woman who died last week.

This is St. Patrick's Day. So we present to you a living example of the Faith he brought to Ireland, and hope you live it too.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Mrs. Conrad Broecker, friend of Carl Wolford (Bad); father of Sister M. Julia, CSC; friend of Bill Pfaff (Sor); father of Prof. Brooks Smeeton. (Ill) Helen Hunkey, friend of Louis Tipp (Far); Miss Staffen, aunt of Joe Celento (Dil); brother of Paul Kloster (Bad). Nine Special Intentions. One Thanksgiving.