

Colleen Gillmouthe CoL

December 23, 1925 — May 28, 2010

Colleen Gillmouthe was a nurse *par excellence*. She spent many years as a missionary nurse both working with the Navajo Indians in Arizona and in the Peace Corps in Malaysia. She also nursed in the Indian Hospital in Tuba City Arizona. Colleen became a co-member in 1979 because of her long friendship Bernice Juen and later became Director of Nursing at Nazareth Hall in El Paso working with Bernice who was the Administrator and caring for the many Loretos living there.

She said in her application for co-membership: "I have enjoyed the fellowship with many of the Sisters of Loretto in El Paso during the past nine years. Most of my adult life has been spent in service to others, and I have found this to be motivation of the Sisters of Loretto and I value this very much."

Colleen retired from Nazareth in 1991 and she and Bernice moved to Timberon, New Mexico and built the house they lived in. Colleen left behind in El Paso the house the Pat Williams and Katherine Monsimer lived in for many years. While they did hire some work at their new house, Colleen was very adept at construction and completed much of the work herself. As she used to say it was an on-going project.

Colleen and Bernice prided themselves on long road trips each year. For several months they would take to the road and then report how many thousands of miles they travelled that year. One trip was to the 1995 Loretto Assembly in Louisville where both Colleen and Bernice took part in the Habitat Build prior to the Assembly.

It saddened Colleen when Bernice had to leave Timberon and return to Nazareth, as a resident. She came down regularly to visit. She would drive her large RV down and park it on Loretto's campus for all visits and doctor's appointments. She did this because of her intense devotion to her pups and cats. It was easier to travel with them — rather than boarding them.

In her co-membership renewal in 2004, Colleen wrote: "The Sisters of Loretto continue to stand for peace and justice, and to work toward that end. I value what they stand for and want to continue my co-membership. I have known many of the Sisters since the early 70's and worked with many when I worked at Nazareth Hall Nursing Center."

Thank you, Colleen, for your devotion to service and your generosity and friendship with Loretto. God bless you!