

Reflection for Sister Hilda Prohaska

By Sister Paulita Kuzy

We are all aware that Martha, Mary and Lazarus were special friends of Jesus and that he often came to their home to visit.

But it is Martha who reminds me of Hilda. Each summer, when we her classmates returned to the Motherhouse, we found that Hilda had volunteered us to clean the garages, paint the stations of the cross or clean the attic or some other “fun” work.

When she was stationed at the Alpha, she decided that the janitor didn't clean corners, so she volunteered her nephew and herself to do the summer cleaning of the school and the corners were spotless.

Hilda had a soft spot for her students especially those who found it difficult to learn. She took extra time with them, she encouraged them and told them you can do it and they did. Under her gruffness, they felt her love and patience.

She was also a caregiver for her family. Before entering the convent, she cared for her mother and later for her sister Ginny and her niece Patty. Her siblings Do and Ed were very important to Hilda. She spoke lovingly of Bobby and Dolly her nieces and Jim and Jack her nephews. She was always there with a helping hand and kept them in her prayers and close to her heart.

Hilda earned the nickname “Wheels” when stationed St. Bonaventure. She loved to drive and could find a thousand and one reasons why she needed the convent car. Hilda was a fun loving person and especially loved bingo and games of chance.

As you see Hilda had many qualities of St. Martha deciding what needed to be done and who should do it. Yet, like Martha, Hilda was open to the spirit and direction of Jesus in her life. Like Martha, she

cared for the physical needs of her family and members of the community. Even in her later years, she always offered her visitors candy from her stash, a cup of coffee or at least a glass of water.

There's a Mary side to Hilda as well. She was faithful to prayer both Community prayer and private prayer. She especially loved the quiet time of retreat and the silence of the chapel. She had a deep thirst and longing to imitate the generosity of our Lord. It was in her love of God and Community that she lived and believed all things, hoped all things and endured all things.

We pray that the angels and Mary and Martha welcome her into paradise and lead her to our Redeemer God.