

# **Eulogy for Sr. Margaret Mary Chiffriller, C.S.JB.**

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**How does one encapsulate the life of Sr. Margaret Mary. She was an extraordinary woman, a woman of vision, a leader, a teacher, a woman of love and a woman devoted to the Eucharist.**

**Really, they broke the mold on the day she was born to Joseph and Mary Ellen Chiffriller. She was the youngest child of 11. All of her brothers and sisters from the day she was born were dedicated to her and took care of their baby sister.**

**She was called Joan, Aunt Joan, Sr. Margret Mary, Margaret and loving by her family Bubby. I do believe one of her favorite names or titles was Aunt Joan. Her love and devotion to her sisters and brothers was endless but nothing compared to the love and support she gave to their children, her many nieces and nephews. She was a lioness when it came to them and did everything she could to protect them in whatever was needed, at any given**

**time. Even, when it meant, she had to be really tough. I think she might have coined the term “tough love”**

**Mother Theresa said “Do small things with great love. I believe Margaret Mary did that but I would like to say she did ALL THINGS with Great Love”**

**I could tell you about the many places she was assigned to but it wasn't about the place or the buildings ..... it was about the people and how through them she could do God's will.**

**That is why she was a woman of vision. She saw a need and let's say she took the bull by the horns and got the job done. An example of this would be many years ago while provincial, she had the community involved in “Heal the Children”. She took in children from impoverished countries that needed medical assistance. She not only helped them get the necessary medical help, she loved them like their own mother. Who could forget George, Kim and Juanito. Another example - she was concerned about undocumented immigrants before it was the concern of our nation. She took in a family and gave them work and made sure their boys were educated and once again loved them like a mother. Most recently they came to visit and the youngest boy now a grown man kissed Margaret's hand and thanked her for all she did for him. A woman of Vision.**

**She was a leader. As a Sister of St. John the Baptist she was provincial for twelve years. During those years she gave of herself and made sure each sister's needs were met both physically and spiritually. Always, encouraging us, to be our best selves. She looked to the future of the community and saw a need and was able to request Sisters from our missions to come to the United States to help us in our ministries. What a joy and privilege it has been having our Sisters from India, the Philippines and Africa come be a part of our American Province. She made sure they were well educated and each one helped to strengthen our Baptistine ministries. She was a woman of leadership.**

**I am sure we all have our Margaret Mary/ Aunt Joan stories that we could tell. While Provincial if she called you, your first reaction might have been oh**

boy, what did I do now or what does she want me to do? Probably, her nieces and nephews said the same thing! Yet, we did what she asked because she would have done anything for us. We will miss those calls. Actually, these days we will miss the many text messages that she sent us each day regardless if was early in the morning or late at night. They always ended with God bless you. I am praying for you or I will offer mass for you today. She used to say, I place everyone in the chalice during the consecration. No, wonder the Sisters knew something was wrong when she didn't show up for mass. Her life centered around the Eucharist.

**A woman of prayer and love for Jesus in the Eucharist.**

**Margaret we love you! Thank you for your vision, your leadership, and your tough love.**

**Now, good and faithful servant take your place with your sisters and brothers and St. Alfonso and remember in heaven to always pray for us.**

*“Jesus holds us written in His hands  
and He can never forget us.”*

*St. Alfonso M. Fusco*