

My name is Michael O'Malley, I am the pastoral associate here at St. Benedict and had the pleasure of working with Sr. Emmanuel in the Ministry of Praise and our Human Concerns Commission. As I've reflected on the time I've spent with Emmanuel over these past five years, I suddenly realized that I cannot recall the time it took for us to get to know each other, it seems that I was introduced to Sr. Emmanuel and from that moment, we knew each other. Sr. Emmanuel delighted in people, and it was her delight that moved us from strangers to friends with such ease.

It was Emmanuel's keen awareness of others that compelled her to the work of her many ministries – the ministry of praise, her monthly letters to cancer patients, her holiday mailings to the sisters in Campbellsport, the gifts she bought and wrapped for our parish Christmas dinner, her tutoring sessions, and the baking she did for Rita's many meetings and conferences. She loved doing it all, she did it well and with such ease.

There were many things I liked about Sr. Emmanuel, but the thing I liked most was that she wasn't a fussy person, there was a simplicity about Emmanuel that was comfortable and pleasant. As I spent more time with Sr. Emmanuel, I realized that behind her easy way of being was a well thought out methodical plan. Sister always seemed have a good handle on the task at hand, she was systematic in her execution of her efforts, and pragmatic in the goals she set. The beauty of this intentionality was that it allowed her to create that hospitality that she was so famous for. A visit to sisters home guaranteed three things a good meal, great stories and laughter, and always a treat to take home.

It would be easy to look at Sr. Emmanuel and dismiss her ... her hearing aid, slow movements, fragile health, and cane hid the force that lived within her. Sr. Emmanuel's

deep faith, commitment, sense of humor, creativity, and energy, remind us that the old adage is true, you *can't* judge a book by its cover.

Always the teacher, Sr. Emmanuel, had lessons to share and her subjects were love, faith, pride of family, friendship and community. She taught on these subjects not only by her words, but her actions. In her life, Sr. Emmanuel lived to embody the prayer of St. Francis—to sow love, pardon, faith, hope, light and joy. In her outreach to others she worked to bring consolation and understanding. And this past Sunday she was born to eternal life.

Today, we give thanks for the many gifts and blessings God bestowed on Sr. Emmanuel. And, we give thanks for the way Sr. Emmanuel used those gifts to bestow blessings on us.

May her warm and gentle soul rest in peace.