

Remembering Louisiana Associate

By Russ Mancl

Holy Cross Associate Sandra Kay Kennedy, Ed.D, passed away on July 28, 2020, in Baton Rouge after a courageous two-year battle with cancer. She called it, “A spiritual journey with cancer.” Sandra was accepted as the first official co-member (today known as associate) of the USA Province in 1985.

Sandra was born in Tampa, Florida, November 4, 1952, to Percy and Mary (Scafidi) Kennedy, the third of five children. She grew up in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi (one hour east of New Orleans).

Growing up in a military family, she attended nine different schools in her 12-year pre-college years and received her Doctor of Education from Columbia University in New York City. She spent several years as a Sister of St. Joseph and taught at numerous schools. She worked in sales in Catholic publishing for 27 years and as National Speaker for William H. Sadlier, Inc. In addition to teaching, including sign language, Dr. Kennedy used her God-given talents in so many other ways.

Sandra served on the board of NACAR (the National American Conference of Associates and Religious) for nine years. She was involved in parish life in various ways from pastoral council to Eucharistic Minister and Lector.

Sandra also served as a volunteer in ministering to women in prison. Sister Linda Songy added, “Although her struggle with cancer prevented her from giving this ministry the number of hours that she wanted to, she was given the privilege of being a ‘volunteer chaplain’ at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women before she died.”

In 2019, Sister Linda Songy wrote, “Sandra has had a very special year of spiritual growth. So many people have said to her and to me, what a witness she has been as a woman of faith, of trust, and of gratitude as she dealt with multiple and major health issues.” Sandra added, “I’ve always known the Holy Cross Sisters and Associates love and support me. Their love and support has been magnified over the last year.”

In addition to her family of Holy Cross Sisters and associates, Sandra is survived by her brothers, William J. Kennedy (Patti), Richard Eugene Kennedy (Dian); sisters, Constance (Connie) Kennedy Proctor (Thomas), Cheryl Kennedy Ladner; nieces and nephews.

Private graveside services were held at the Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Bay St. Louis, MS, on July 31. Rest in peace Sandra!

