

Noel Davis – Tribute of Gratitude

My Easter has been coloured by the passing from this life to the next of someone who had a profound significance in the shaping of my Marist vocation.

I don't remember when it first hit me that as a Marist Sister, I was meant actually to **be** Mary's presence in today's world. What I do remember is knowing instinctively that I couldn't do that – after all, Mary was blue and white and perfect... and I simply was not. Although I chose to stay, somehow I settled for being something less – “half-baked”, as it were.

Then came the day when I was handed a prayer sheet with a reflection which began: ***Whatever happened to Wild Mary, to that spirited village woman, who broke the chains and shattered the moulds that tried to tame and angel her...*** As I read, the room began to spin for me...

It was mid-1996, I was already more than 25 years professed. Yet, in a moment, what had eluded me for all that time, leapt off the page. Mary became ***real*** and somehow my vocation became grounded.

Yes, **Noel Davis** brought all the colours of the rainbow to my understanding of Mary and thereby changed my life. But – as if that were not enough – the Mystery of Life allowed us to keep in touch by phone and email, until we eventually met and Noel and Trish welcomed me into their circle of friends. What precious memories have been woven into my life's tapestry! I will be forever grateful.

You may have left this earthly life, dear Noel, but your influence remains in the lives of so many of us and, I suspect, you are not all that far away. What a joy for you to meet Wild Mary, to say nothing of her Son!

Enjoy the Dance, dear friend!

MAGNIFICAT!

*Vivienne Goldstein SM
Rome, Italy
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