



## **Sister Carol Ann Lockwood, SC**

Entered eternal life on June 10, 2026

So, how do you write a eulogy or reflection for one of the “younger” members of the Sisters of Charity? Believe me it’s not easy...

And to make it more challenging, the younger member, Sister Carol Ann Lockwood, was a good friend of mine. Someone I lived and shared community with for over eight years until she began to experience some health issues.

That was about two years ago, and I journeyed with her for the last two years until she passed last week.

When I was asked to prepare this reflection, I reviewed her life card, and it became evident to me that Carol Ann had a very full life. She had many rich and varied living and ministry experiences.

When I reflected on this, I sensed that she was the type of person who was ready and willing to put herself out there, to take a risk on something new and to be vulnerable.

The sense I had of Carol Ann was confirmed when her friend Cathy Mc Cann told me a story. Cathy told me that when she and Carol Ann were at the Western Prioory, Carol Ann shared with her that she was discerning religious life and that a phrase kept coming to her. That phrase was “God said go.” Apparently, Carol Ann took that to mean she should enter the Sisters of Charity because that is exactly what she did on April 11, 1985.

After hearing that story from Cathy, I thought that the phrase “God said go” could be the mantra that Carol Ann used her entire life because Carol Ann said “yes” many times and to many different experiences throughout her life.

Early on in her religious life, I believe Carol Ann heard God say, “go teach little children.” Carol Ann applied her bachelor’s and early childhood education certificate when she served in many Sister of Charity schools. She first taught in St. Mary’s Child Care Center in Elizabeth and then taught kindergarten at St. Patrick’s in Jersey City. She then went back to St. Mary’s to become the Director of the Child Care Center. Carol Ann loved teaching and loved children. She volunteered during the summer in West Virginia and New Mexico with Sr. Magdalena Studer helping with vacation bible school.

When she was asked to become involved in formation ministry, she must have heard “God said go” because she became Director of Candidates and held that position for four years while being involved in other ministries.

In 2000, Carol Ann’s life took a different turn, and she became Campus Minister at Holy Angels Academy in Demarest. Again, an opportunity to teach and form young people, a ministry I believe Carol Ann deeply loved. She held this position until she had an opportunity to serve on the Mission Team in Haiti. This was an exciting opportunity where Carol Ann could be involved in direct service to the poor. So, again Carol Ann heard “God say go.”

Unfortunately, her time in Haiti was cut short by an illness and she had to return to the States. I believe this was a difficult time for Carol Ann as she truly wanted to serve in Haiti but soon, she was presented with an opportunity to become staff at a new ministry, that being Caritas Academy. Caritas Academy was a high school begun by several religious congregations, a very new and innovative ministry. God must have told Carol Ann to go and be part of this new ministry as she joined the faculty at Caritas Academy.

When Caritas closed, she took a position as Education Director at York Street Project in Jersey City. This was another opportunity to use her skills in education to benefit young girls who were struggling to receive an education.

Carol Ann's last two ministries were in the field of teaching religious studies. She went to Seton Hall for a master's in theology and taught at Immaculate Heart Academy and later at St. Vincent's Academy. I know she truly loved her time at St. Vincent's. She would often come home after school and share entertaining stories about the students she had in class.

Carol Ann was the type of person who wanted to be part of something, meaning she desired to be part of a group or community. Rightly so, she came from a large family, many of whom are very active and animated! I don't think I need to tell you (her family) that she loved you very much.

I believe that this desire to be part of something was the impetus to becoming involved with Berakah. It was at Berakah that she met her dear friends, Carol Heller, Cathy McCann and Fr. Rich Husted. I believe it was the grounding that this community gave her that helped Carol Ann to make the decision to join the Sisters of Charity. Thank you, Berakah community!

Her desire to be involved in community was evident in the many groups she enjoyed being with. She thrived on her interaction with the sisters in her Charity Alive group. She very much looked forward to those meetings and enjoyed the discussion that happened there. She also loved being involved in the Coordinating Council and in the Federation group: 70's and Beyond. Again, she was energized by being part of a group that took issues of religious life seriously.

The other group that was life-giving to her was her quilting community! Carol Ann was a great quilter, a hobby she truly enjoyed. She loved to quilt with her friend Cathy McCann and with members of a group in Pennsylvania. She even met with them virtually during Covid. They would all be on screen quilting!

Even when she resided at Complete Care at St. Vincent's, Carol Ann strived to be part of the community there. She attended mass and activities and was even in the choir. She also knew all her caregivers' names and was friends with many of the residents. She even knew the names of family members! She really did enter the community at Cedar Grove.

So, as I reflect on Carol Ann's life, I believe God told her to go. Go and be with and minister to God's people, go teach children and teens, go minister to the poor in Haiti, Jersey City, and Elizabeth.

Her openness, willingness and ability to say "yes" enabled her to go to places I would never be willing to go. She would also volunteer to do things, I would never volunteer to do.

I do know that I am better person for knowing Carol Ann and I am sure all of you can say the same.

So, to close, I would like to thank Carol Ann for all she showed us and taught us. And because of her, hopefully, we all can say "we will go" the next time we are offered an opportunity to step out and do something different.

Carol Ann, sister, aunt, godmother, dear friend, Sister of Charity - rest in Peace. We will truly miss you.  
Amen.

~ Sister Patricia Mennor, SC