

Deanna Crabb, SFO

by

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L -to-R: Newscaster,
Norma Rashid;
Deanna Crabb;
Barb Anderson,
Director of MariElders

When Deanna Crabb, “Dee” to most people, attended a Senior Citizen Hall of Fame banquet in September, 2010, she knew she was being recognized for her work with the MariElders Center for Adults in Mariemont, Ohio.

What she did not realize was that she had been selected for citywide recognition for the entire Greater Cincinnati area.

Dee, a member of Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity in Holy Trinity Region, joined MariElders in 2001, but her kindness to her children, neighbors, church, fraternity and many others far precedes that time. Having just turned 70, Dee is active in St. Margaret of Cortona church where she lectures, helps with Communion and assists in planning funeral services. She helps prepare food and personal care items for Catholic Worker House and Tender Mercies.

When asked what led her to the Franciscan life, Dee stated that there was no particular event ... It must have been the caring relationship of (the Fraternity) members ...

She has been a volunteer driver for many years for those who require transportation to medical appointments and other out of the way places they need to go.

Dee serves her fraternity in countless ways. She frequently leads Evening Prayer, and has served as treasurer and councilor for the fraternity. The fraternity prayer group is vital to her. When asked what led her to the Franciscan life, Dee hesitated. She says there was no particular event that led her to the Franciscans in 1965. It must have been the caring relationship of members who enabled her and her husband to get to meetings when they had no car. She recalls the huge meetings of those days. She cherishes the Franciscans who welcomed them back when they returned to church and to the fraternity.

The Franciscans have shown her that when things go wrong, it's okay.

They welcome you always and allow you to begin again.

Gift making for hospitalized children began Dee's decades long ministry of linking prayer with meaningful gifts. When she hears of someone newly diagnosed with cancer, a CareBear just might be in the making. Her CareBears, beautifully created of varied fabrics, twinkling eyes, outreaching arms, are stuffed with love. Prayers for the recipient are assured.

As the five Crabb children were growing up, Dee and husband Bob coached and refereed softball, soccer and basketball. Rearing children took a toll on Dee's family. A rebellious daughter's drug and alcohol usage caused Dee, who is a convert to the faith, to leave the Church for six years after she had been professed as a Secular Franciscan. Finally seeking help through Alcoholics Anonymous and Adult Children of Alcoholics, Dee rediscovered her Higher Power who is Jesus, her best friend.

Returning to the Catholic church, she found acceptance in the Franciscan spirit.

She recalls a time when she was driving to a Mass and meeting when she ran out of gas.

It took some time to get her car up and running again and she proceeded to the gathering. Discovering that the fraternity had waited for her was a humbling and gratifying experience she will not forget. The Franciscans valued her as a person.

Those five children have graced Dee's life with an even dozen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Her role as mother and grandmother is blessed by her devotion to Mary whom she says is her support and who leads her ever closer to Jesus.

Dee's friendly smile and heart felt hugs bless many lonely people with the gift of human touch.