

Memorial Service Comments for Sr. Mary Andrew Matesich

June 20, 2005

Joan Connell – Former Vice President for Academic Affairs, Ohio Dominican

Mary and I have been friends for 24 years since, in a moment of weakness, she hired me at ODC (now ODU).

She was the consummate travel companion. We visited museums and churches and historic buildings and famous places.

We climbed the Acropolis, got lost in Padua, saw *Les Mis* in London and visited the cathedral in Cologne.

We stayed in 4-star hotels occasionally, in castles made over into bed-and-breakfasts, and sometimes in the Motel Six behind some airport.

We heard Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and ate risotto every night for a week in a tiny restaurant near the Roman Forum.

We stayed out too late one night and had to ring the bell and be scolded by the portress in a convent-turned-boarding-house,

We lost our way in 20 different countries – and we had glorious times.

We visited every Jo-Ann's fabric store in 10 states and every quilt shop in Holmes County.

We bought lace in Santiago de Compostella and watched the police tow away our car in Toledo.

We went to eight plays one week in Niagara-on-the-Lake and visited every year a 15-inch marble bear that we could not afford to buy carved by an Eskimo artist.

We shopped for icons in St. Petersburg and earrings for Mary's nieces in Gdansk.

We lost our nerve and didn't do the sulfur baths in Budapest.

We sometimes just stayed home and listened to music while Mary sewed and I cooked dinner.

We always had a glorious time.

Friends are rare – and voluntary – and precious – and rewarding.

Mary was my friend – and I shall always miss her.