

Sr. Grace Olga Brouard, DW

3/13/31 - 8/23/16

We are saddened to report the passing of Sr. Grace Olga Brouard, DW (78) who entered into eternal life on Tuesday, August 23, 2016. Sr. Grace Olga had just been recognized for 60 years of consecrated life on August 20, 2016, at the Daughters of Wisdom Jubilee Celebration.



Known as a woman of learning and devotion, Sister was originally from the Haitian Province of the Daughters of Wisdom and was born into a family with a love for learning, her father Carl Brouard, was a prominent writer and journalist. Sister was educated in Paris and Port-au-Prince, earning her BA in Biblical Theology and an advanced degree in Social Work (MSW). She came to the United States in 1987 to study English and won a Fulbright Scholarship to Boston College. There she was awarded a Master's Degree in Sociology. She became a U.S. Citizen on May 30, 2001.

Sister's devotion to the mission of our Congregation was inspired by Jesus who died on the Cross for us, showing mercy to the whole world. She exemplified His mercy by years of teaching in Haiti and in the Bahamas, then working as a Social Worker among troubled women in Port-au-Prince. This was indeed risky. As a Professor of Sociology at Essex County College in Newark, New Jersey she was especially sensitive to the needs of the young men in her classes. Sister lived in the Bethany Community in Crowne Heights, Brooklyn. Her prayerful presence at St. Matthew's Church opened up relationships with the women of the Parish.

Sr. Grace Olga was buried at St. John's Cemetery, 8001 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY and will be greatly missed by all those she served and especially by the congregation, staff, and friends of the Daughters of Wisdom.

Sr. Grace Olga Brouard, DW
Sr. Marie Olga du Sacre Coeur
3/13/38-8/23/16

This past Saturday – August 20th – we, the Daughters of Wisdom of the United States Province, celebrated our Sisters who were marking special anniversaries. We call these special anniversaries Jubilees. Sr. Grace Olga, though she was physically not able to attend, was one of those celebrating the 60th anniversary of professing her religious vows.

During the celebration, each jubilarian was honored by a brief description of her life and with a tribute to how she uniquely answered the call of Wisdom. Allow me to summarize some of what was shared about Sr. Grace Olga.

Sr. Grace Olga, originally from our Haitian Province, was born into a family with a love for learning, her father Carl Brouard, being a prominent writer and journalist. Sister was educated in Paris and Port-au-Prince, earning her BA in Biblical Theology and an advanced degree- MSW- in Social Work. Sister came to the United States in 1987 to study English and won a Fulbright Scholarship to Boston College. There she was awarded a Master's Degree in Sociology. Sister became a U.S. Citizen on May 30, 2001.

Sister's devotion to the mission of our Congregation was inspired by Jesus who died on the Cross for us, showing mercy to the whole world. She exemplified His mercy by years of teaching in Haiti and in the Bahamas, then working as a Social Worker among troubled women in Port-au-Prince. This was indeed risky. As a Professor of Sociology at Essex County College in Newark she was especially sensitive to the needs of the students in her classes. Sister lived here in the Bethany Community in Crown Heights. Her prayerful presence at St. Matthew's Church opened up relationships with the women of the Parish. Sister expressed great happiness at being a Daughter of Wisdom as she offered her Hail Mary's. Her desire to be with Jesus and Mary were exemplified in the Hymn, "Au Ciel, Au Ciel, Au Ciel" - *in Heaven, Heaven, and Heaven!* The tribute concluded with a word of gratitude to Sr. Grace Olga – thanking her for her prayer, her example of serious study and her impressive service to the poor.

As I mentioned, this was the year of Sr. Grace Olga's 60th jubilee. The term jubilee, in the biblical sense, has several different meanings. One of these traditional meanings is "Waiting upon the holy." In this waiting, one hopes to be strengthened, centered, and healed by the Holy.

Little did any of us know last Saturday, how close Sr. Grace Olga was to heaven and to being face to face with Holy Wisdom. We ask you Sr. Grace Olga to intercede for us in the place of fullness and peace – your one true home.

Eulogy by Sr. Catherine Sheehan, DW
Province Leader
Daughters of Wisdom, USA