

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PARISH PROFILES

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Mary Lou Gavin

When Mary Lou Gavin was first approached to become part of the Saint Rose Eucharistic ministry at St. John's Hospital her first response was "I am not worthy to do that. However, I came to learn that I would receive blessings from the patients and that was very rewarding to me."

She joined the team at St. John's two years after her husband Tim died in the hospital's ICU. "Every time I go there (pre-pandemic) it brings back memories—and they are not bad memories," she says. "I've had a chance to share those memories with some of the nurses who took care of him. Being a part of that ministry has taken me to a different place spiritually. The impact has been significant." So, too, has been her relationship with her cousin Val Gyurci ("She brings out the holiness in me.")

When Mary Lou was 19 she took a trip to New York City, and returned with a motion sickness problem and in a state of panic, vowing never to fly again. And she didn't for the next 30 years. "I always wanted to see Europe so I had to fight through my anxiety," says Mary Lou (at right in photo). "Val convinced me to take a trip with her to visit a relative in Kansas City. After that I was ready to fly again."

Since then she has been a frequent flyer and world traveler. Mary Lou and her husband Tim visited Ireland four times; she has been there twice with Val. Mary Lou has also visited Lourdes and Fatima. Three years ago the cousins went back to the Carpathian Mountains of Transylvania in Romania (where Mary Lou's mother and Val's father were born). "The villages seemed unchanged from when our parents were growing up," says Mary Lou. "I felt the peace of my ancestors being there before me and now understand the entire feeling of family heritage and how it formed me."



Other things to know about Mary Lou:

- She attended Holy Childhood School and Our Lady of Peace High School. Mary Lou worked in the office at the Daytons' Rosedale store for 30 years, starting the day the store opened. Later she spent 15 years as customer service manager at Herbergers
- Mary Lou met Tim when she was a junior in high school and he was at the University of St. Thomas. Tim worked in contract administration for Honeywell. They had been married for 46 years when he died in 2014.
- When daughter Sara attended Saint Rose School Mary Lou was involved in several activities. She is most proud of the significant role she played in producing the parish cookbook. Sara's daughter Trinity is in grade two at the parish school.