REMEmBRANCE OF SISTER VIRGINIA TAYLOR  
Written by Sister Rita Lewandowski

Love for the poor was absolutely dominant in the life of Virginia Taylor. When she saw a need, she set out to fill it. She worked on a Native American reservation for a time. When living in Peru, she moved to the barrios to serve the poor. When she was told of a resident who died, she remained alone with the body overnight, waiting for next day burial. In her years before retirement, she worked with the homeless, caring for their many needs. As a true daughter of Marguerite, Virginia always met the moment.

Virginia was a nurse practitioner and a nurse par excellence. Besides the works already mentioned, she served as a public health nurse in Buffalo for many years. Even at Holy Redeemer Lafayette, though limited in mobility, she would pick up a fallen sweater for someone in a wheelchair or help make an adjustment for someone in an uncomfortable position in his or her chair.

Virginia was elected Resident President while living in a senior citizen apartment complex. Working to improve the residents’ living station, she arranged to have vending machines installed to supply some basic food needs—milk, for example. She set up recreation groups, such as pinochle and bridge groups, so that the residents could avoid having to go out in Buffalo’s snowy, slippery weather.

Virginia loved to cook. She shared her great talent by cooking some summers at the Grey Nun Tutoring School at Cape May and cooking one year for the Sisters on the 4th floor of Madonna Hall at D’Youville.

There was a strong cultural dimension to her person and character. When living at the Motherhouse in Yardley, she would take the train weekends into Phillie with a friend to take in the cultural and historic sites. She enjoyed movies with her friends. She was part of a theater-
going group in Buffalo that attended all the Kavinoky Theater productions and other plays over many years.

Virginia was a good conversationalist and delightful dinner companion. She loved discussion of subjects that really mattered. She was a CNN and MSNBC devotee who loved to discuss politics, among other things. We had wonderful discussions on the homeless that brought out new and unimaginable insights. She was passionate about refugees. She was also reflective with us about the approaching end of life, sharing with us how happy she was to have the time to reflect on her life in these latter years.

She was very forthright in giving her true opinions, never hiding her view because of what anyone might think.

Virginia was great at problem-solving. If you reached some sort of impasse in some troublesome matter, she would always see a way around all the obstacles and find a breakthrough!

Spirituality played a great role in her life. She was an inveterate mass-goer and never missed Office. She arranged in-house retreats for those who were not up to going elsewhere for retreat. She gave up sweets for Lent, restricting herself to fruit cups for dessert. She was a very loving person, outstanding for her non-critical and non-judgmental nature.

Because Virginia was such a private person, the many contributions she made were only inadvertently discovered even by her closest friends.

Virginia was so rich and prolific in the many dimensions of her person that she cannot be reduced to any formula. She bursts through all parameters, evading all attempts to rein her in. Sister Virginia Taylor, GNSH is a true star among many in the Grey Nun galaxy. How blessed we are to have had someone who makes saying good-bye so hard!