

Anna Day, OFS

Anna M. (Tremblay), of Encinitas, passed away on June 18th at age 95. Anna grew up in Somerville, MA and was long-time resident of Encinitas, CA. She was member of the Secular Franciscan Order since the 1940's and most recently active in the San Luis Rey Secular Franciscan fraternity, Oceanside, CA. She was active in civic and parish life and received the highest female award given by the Boy Scouts of America the "Silver Fawn". She worked for the New York Telephone Co. and was a AT&T retiree.

As Secular Franciscans in the San Luis Rey Fraternity, we celebrate our friend and sister in Christ, Anna Day OFS. She remains a Franciscan here, in our hearts. When she came to San Luis Rey, Anna said she was delighted to have found Secular Franciscans in the area. After a short time, we realized how delighted *we* were to find *her*. Anna was kind, often quiet and always very gracious.



Anna liked to volunteer. She pitched in on several occasions as the fraternity helped the friars with hospitality at Mission events. I distinctly remember how Anna worked at a reception following the installation of the San Damiano Cross in the Serra Center. We moved furniture and spread tablecloths, brought food from the kitchen and helped clean up afterward. It was a happy day, and Anna was a big help and great to be with.

Anna looked just lovely and seemed very fit. I remember being shocked to hear she was almost ninety. Eventually, the strain of living independently – driving, shopping, cooking – weighed on Anna, and she moved to the Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Encinitas. At that time, the fraternity had just established its Outreach program for members no longer able to come to meetings. When I visited early in 2014, Anna's energy was high and her health seemed very good. She enjoyed her new place and was happy to be there. Anna praised the food and liked her caregivers. She frequently joined activities in the game room, or went outside to sit with friends in the courtyard.

Soon Marianne Grisez became Anna's contact, and visited her every month. When asked how she was doing, Anna would explain that her life was happily uneventful – and ask Marianne about her own family and projects. Anna was always gracious. She loved life and



emphasized its blessings. Marianne brought copies of THE CORD and filled Anna in on fraternity news and events. She also baked cookies for Anna, and showed genuine interest in her happiness and well-being. In turn, Anna listened attentively. She was always interested in what her friend had to say, and had a fine sense of humor.

Occasionally, Anna spoke of her four boys, grown now and caring for their own families. Yet she enjoyed her independence, and declined invitations to move in with them, so as not to be a burden. Anna had a warm and loving family. In May, they organized a surprise party to celebrate her 95th birthday. Anna was certainly surprised – and really delighted! The photos featured here are from that wonderful day.

Written by Karron Esmonde, OFS

