



Ellen M. Kaltenbach

November 14, 1928 - November 5, 2013

Ellen M. Kaltenbach (Donahue) age 84, a life-long south Toledoan, passed away November 5, 2013 in her home. She was a graduate of Central Catholic High School and a longtime parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church, “Darby.” For the bulk of her career, she was an administrative assistant to the international president of First National Bank of Toledo.

Ellen was preceded in death by her parents Lawrence “Bus” and Marie Donahue, brothers Jerry and George Donahue, and sister Carol Wymer. She is survived by cousins as well as nine nieces and nephews and their children, who will always remember her as a generous and loving aunt, an example of strength and resilience her entire life.

A funeral mass will be celebrated on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at 11 am. in Immaculate Conception Church where the family will receive friends beginning at 10 am. Interment will follow in Calvary Cemetery. Memorials may take the form of contributions to Alpha-1 Foundation, Attention: Development Office, 2937 SW 27th Ave., Suite 302, Miami, Florida 33133 or to the Church

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2224 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43607

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **9**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Church
434 Western Ave
Toledo, OH 43609
(419) 243-1829

Funeral

NOV **9**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Church
434 Western Ave
Toledo, OH 43609
(419) 243-1829

Tribute Wall

LI

“*Dear Kaltenbach Family and Friends,
I am so very sorry to hear of the loss of your dear loved one, and offer you my sincere condolences. Many have found comfort and hope in knowing that the Bible assures us: “Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; He saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18) God’s holy spirit, or active force, can equip you with “power beyond what is normal” to go from one day to the next. (2 Corinthians 4:7) It is my sincere hope that this gives you a measure of solace in this most difficult time. My family wishes you and yours peace.*

Lisa - November 21, 2013 at 11:48 AM

MA

“ I had the honor of having Ellen as my next door neighbor and she has been a part of my lifelong memories. She always had the most immaculate and well-kept house and yard in the neighborhood. The first time I remember being in that regal home was as a teenager when my brother was painting her house and needed me to climb up the ladder to the roof over her porch to hand him something. I was terrified of heights and froze unable to climb back down the ladder. Ellen rescued me and let me in through her bedroom window and led me safely downstairs in the safety of a staircase rather than a scary ladder. Just last year, I lost my mother and Ellen cried with me. I spent an evening sitting in her living room and listening to her share memories of my lovely mother. I often wondered if she knew how much I enjoyed hearing those stories. I've read of her birthday cards to her family and I am here as testimony that she shared that with her neighbors as well. My favorite card each year was for St. Patrick's Day. So proud of her heritage that my mother shared with her as well. I had the blessing of sharing in one last hug with Ellen less than a week of her passing. Of course, I did not realize it would be the last time I would see her and this makes me forever grateful for that moment. I have spent a lifetime seeing Ellen's kitchen light on outside my window each and every night. When I heard of her passing, I peered out that window and my heart ached when I saw that light out. Dear Ellen, you will be missed.

*Sending all love and light to Ellen's family,
Mary Ann*

Mary Ann - November 08, 2013 at 08:04 PM

MM

“ Growing up in Ireland, I was privileged to have many Grand Aunts in my life. I really missed them when we emigrated to Canada. When I met Aunt Ellen, I once again felt that special love and warmth that only an Aunt can give. She was a treasure and me the luckier to have known her.

Maureen McDowell - November 08, 2013 at 12:55 PM

SD

“ Aunt Ellen's capacity to love her nieces and nephews, her great-nieces and nephews and even her great-great-nephews appeared boundless. I wonder how many birthday cards and Christmas cards (always with a cheque enclosed) were received by us and our children and now grandchildren? (I started doing the math and stopped when I got to a thousand cards.)

Her love was more than remembering birthdays and sending money. Love was time. She had time to listen. She was quite a talker herself. But she could listen like you were the most important person in the world. And that quality was more than just about having time, it was about acceptance. Aunt Ellen was opinionated to be sure. But I can never remember her disagreeing with me or making me feel somehow that I had a wrong idea.

She was very funny with a wit that reminded me of her dad, my grandfather, Bus Donahue. But she was a great laugh too. I would give my right arm to have a hundred Aunt Ellen's in every audience I give a speech to.

I've been trying to find a word to describe Aunt Ellen and the closest I can come is "grace". She had a grace about her that enveloped you and held you while you were with her and even carried you for a while through the rest of your day.

A few weeks ago a little boy was born in California and I became a Great Uncle for the first time. I didn't realize that I was a Great Uncle until Daniel, the new proud papa, referred to me that way in an email. Jokingly, I replied; "I prefer to be known as THE GREATEST UNCLE." Daniel agreed to address me as such from now on. So Maureen and I immediately sent a gift and a card to Dan and Tracy's beautiful Brady, my new great-nephew. That was a no-brainer. Because I had an amazing role model and she was THE GREATEST AUNT.

Steve Donahue - November 08, 2013 at 12:33 PM

JC

“ So sorry to hear of loosing such a precious lady. I loved reading all the wonderful memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.



Jeni Charles - November 08, 2013 at 09:16 AM

JB

“ I love hearing stories about Ellen and wish I had known her. She was quite a woman.

Judy B - November 08, 2013 at 07:39 AM

SB

“ I agree so much with all the wonderful comments about Aunt Ellen. I think two of her best attributes was support and a listening ear. She always listened so intently. Having two kids with special needs, she always cared so deeply about their progress. It was an honor to name our last Ellen Marie. I so enjoyed our visits over tea. I only wish we could share just one more cup of tea. Much love, Susan Bachmayer

susan bachmayer - November 08, 2013 at 06:00 AM

JB

“Most individuals don't keep in touch with their great aunts or uncles, so it always intrigued me that Aunt Ellen maintained a special bond with all of her relatives, both young and old. For me, it comes down to thoughtfulness; each year, Aunt Ellen would send me a card and some money, be it for my birthday or for Christmas, or both.

I will always remember a moment I shared with Aunt Ellen. It was a cold, icy winter, and I was helping her carry some belongings into her house. We situated them throughout the house, and I turned to leave. Aunt Ellen stopped me, and grabbed me by the shoulders. She looked into my eyes and told me, "Thank you. You've always been such a good boy." Now, whether that comment holds credence or not, I know that Aunt Ellen meant it. She had a way of treating people with respect, even those who were much younger than she. As naive as I may have been, with a certain dearth of life experience, Aunt Ellen would discuss politics or listen to my stories with a deference and interest typically only accorded to close confidants.

When I heard that Aunt Ellen had passed, my heart sunk and cold chills consumed my body. Truthfully, I guess I never realized what kind of impact her consistent acts of kindness and generosity had on me. As I worked out my feelings, what the underlying emotions amounted to were respect and admiration. It was the same kind of admiration she demonstrated through her actions, all in an effort to show others that they matter, that they were worth the time and effort of the note soon to be received.

Jordan Brown - November 07, 2013 at 10:09 PM

CN

“ Aunt Ellen was always a lover of art. She spoiled me one year and got me an art museum membership because she knew how much I loved to go. When I would come over to visit her at her perfect little house, she would always make me raisin bread sandwiches which I cringed at the thought of eating, but once I did they were so delicious. We would sit and talk about whatever, she would always ask me if I had been taking pictures or making any art.

She was always so proud of her house and her lawn- I would go over to house as a young teen and help with her garden, and I vividly remember standing up on a chair dusting the drapes for her. She always paid me too much for helping her and then she would drive me home in her classy Buick (I think it was a Buick). It's a simple memory but it's one I will always remember.

Just this past summer, I remember how much I loved sitting next to her at my cousin's graduation party. She was always so interested in what you had to say. I will miss her smile, her laugh, her genuine spirit; and especially her baggy blue jeans and oversized sweaters.

Claire Newman - November 07, 2013 at 03:48 PM

MD

“ I adored my Aunt Ellen She was so much fun to be around. She was strong and funny and really intelligent. Aunt Ellen was always there for each one of us. We were her family and she was all ours. Aunt Ellen, could you please give Grandma and Grandpa, Jerry and Carol along with Mom and Dad a big huge hug from all of us. We will miss you and always love you.

Martha Donahue

martha donahue - November 07, 2013 at 03:39 PM

 Kristin
Cheek

“ *Memories of my short time in Ohio always include the overnight stays at Aunt Ellen's home. An "aunt" to all, even extended family, I loved going to her house and playing with real china on a table covered with a white tablecloth, followed by dancing and "skating" to Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The King and I" around the furnace in her basement. She was a sweet lady, and I know she will be missed by all.*

Kristin Saal Cheek

Kristin Cheek - November 07, 2013 at 03:36 PM

FN

“ I've been telling my friends and co-workers that I lost my great-Aunt Ellen this week. They've responded kindly, but I think when they hear "great" aunt it portrays a picture of an old, distant relative. This couldn't be further from the truth.

When I picture my extended family gathered around, Aunt Ellen is always included in my minds-eye: her silvery white hair in a bun, her tall regal figure, and that smirk of a smile which would break in to a wheezy laugh. As a child, I remember standing in Grandma's living room with music on listening and watching ever so carefully as she taught me to do the Charleston--moving my hands over my knees--and watching her bell bottoms swing around her ankles. As I got older, I liked visiting at her house because you could be sure to have a warm baked treat right out of the oven and a proper cup of tea in a china cup. Aunt Ellen was content to just "be" with you, and when you left her company she'd lovingly cup your face in her hands and give a kiss on the cheek. When we lost Grandma, then Grandpa, she was our rock. She loved us and took us with our broken hearts under her wing. It was going to be okay, and her strength helped you believe it just may.

We love you Aunt Ellen. Thanks for making us more than great nieces and nephews, thanks for making us your kids. You will ever be in our hearts.

Faith Newman - November 07, 2013 at 03:18 PM

MB

“ I have so many memories of Aunt Ellen. I loved staying overnight at her house, which I thought was beautiful. It was a haven for me, where Aunt Ellen was my friend. We drank tea together, and I watched her cut out her Vogue patterns. She was a career woman who first piqued my interest in a world for women outside the home. We played Pat Boone on the hi-fi and sang and rocked and rolled. She didn't hold back. I was both thrilled and scared by her musical abilities. Her nieces and nephews all remember the wonderful Christmas Eves when Aunt Ellen wore silver glitter in her hair. She was beautiful. This was another special occasion when we feasted on Ellen's crockpot of cocktail weenies. When Jingle Bell Rock came on the hi-fi, Ellen swooped up a nephew for a wild dance around the room. To just call her an "aunt" doesn't do justice to her relationship with us. She was at all the family gatherings, big and small. Aunt Ellen helped us grow up.

In recent years, Ellen outlived her siblings: Jerry, George and Carol. Aunt Ellen became our oldest relative. She was the link to our past, to our parents. We visited her, drank tea, and listened to the old stories. We loved her very much.

Mary Donahue Brown

Mary Donahue Brown - November 07, 2013 at 10:59 AM

SK

“ Aunt Ellen was very kind. She never forgot a birthday, always sending cards and a gift, even to her great nieces and nephews. I remember when I was little, she took me to Holiday on Ice shows and the Nutcracker ballet for many years. I remember little sausages in bbq sauce in her crockpot for the Christmas Eve parties in her basement, and the many sleepovers where she would sing and dance. When I told her that I loved her, she always replied with "I love you back." She will be missed.

Sarah (Donahue) Krafty



Sarah Krafty - November 06, 2013 at 03:31 PM