



A Teacher's Gift

Here's the story behind the eighth www.Keys2Heaven.com song, leading up to release of *Stories of Faith: 12 Songs Inspired by You!*

By Gary Loncki

Many teachers may look at their students and wonder what difference they're really making. Of course, that's a matter of faith. While most may never know, here's the story of one who was given the gift.

Nearly 50 years ago, Mercy Sister Lucille Socciarelli looked in the eyes of her seventh-graders at St. Bonaventure School in Buffalo, N.Y. There was something special about a boy who sat in front of her desk. He was especially bright; a good boy with a keen wit.

When Sister Lucille took the class outside during the winter to go to the parish church for First Friday confession, the snowballs would fly, she recalls with a laugh.

"Who threw that snowball?" she yelled, irritated. Answered the boy, "Which one, sister?"

His double portion of boyish energy sometimes got him into mischief, and she would create for him complex math problems on which to work. They proved no match for the boy with the tossed, auburn hair.

"He was really a math wiz," she says.

She put his energy to good use by steering him to journalism, making him the editor of the school newspaper, "The Bonnette." He enthusiastically wrote articles, edited the newspaper and oversaw its staff.

The boy became a man but never lost his boyish enthusiasm for life, nor an evident commitment to his faith. Once a law student at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio, he penned a note thanking her for making a difference in his

A Teacher's Gift from *Stories of Faith: 12 Songs Inspired by You!*

© 2008 Keys2Heaven.com It is unlawful to copy, distribute or use without expressed permission.

life. It read: "One nun can make a difference, and I can say you have made a difference in my life."

He went on to work in the office of a governor and U.S. senator. Later, his rich knowledge of the inner workings of politics attracted the attention of a major television news network, which named him its Washington bureau chief and eventually the host of its top political program.



Fame never got in the way of remembering his favorite teacher. He included her in family vacations, speaking engagements and signings of his book in which she was given a place of honor. He also named an annual teaching award after her.

Tim Russert died of a heart attack on June 13, 2008.

At his memorial service at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the teacher who gave him a solid grounding in his faith which was acknowledged throughout the world, who led him to his passion for journalism and politics, stood before a national television audience saying that she could picture God saying, "Here's little Timmy Russert. You're in heaven now, Tim, where every day is 'Meet the Press.' Welcome home."

Gary Loncki is a communications director for a community of women religious and a freelance journalist. He wrote this story exclusively for Keys2Heaven.com

Purchase the beautiful instrumental to this story now.

Get your BOARDING PASS now and receive full access to this journey. It's fast, free and secure!

What's Your Story?

www.Keys2Heaven.com

Info@Keys2Heaven.com