



## *Helen*

**By Patricia A. Baylog DM**

My years working on the oncology unit were the most powerful years of nursing. On this particular day, I was working the day shift and went to check on all of my patients. Helen, who was in room 350, had informed me that she would be going home today. I had not heard that in morning report, however, I promised I would check her chart and let her know. Helen was awake and alert, ambulating, and able to care for herself.

Returning to Helen's room, I mentioned to her that there was not a doctor's order for her discharge. She shared with me in a very peaceful and sincere way that she saw the Blessed Mother coming down the staircase for her. The day proceeded normally as Helen walked herself to the bathroom to wash.

Around mid-morning, Helen was in bed and the doctor and charge nurse were making rounds (visiting each patient). Their last patient to see was Helen.

After the doctor gave her a very cordial greeting, Helen informed him that she would be going home today. The doctor just looked at her. And with that, Helen's head lowered and she died. There was complete silence in the room for quite a long time. Heaven and earth had touched, in a very special way, on that particular day. Helen saw our Blessed Mother coming to her to bring Helen home to Jesus.

How often do we hear our Lord's voice and act on His word? Or, how often do we see the Blessed Mother and hear her requests and listen to her? I marvel at Helen's peace and tranquility and how freely she shared her experience. She was not afraid or worried, however, she was extremely peaceful. She was going home for good and our Blessed Mother was taking her there. It was a blessing to be a part of her journey.



Patricia was born and raised Catholic. She developed her personal relationship with Jesus through the Charismatic Renewal. She worked as a nurse at St Francis Medical Center on the Oncology unit and then in ICU. She also served in the National Guard as an Army Nurse. She is commissioned as a Lay Ecclesial Minister for her diocese and is a member of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta.