

Sr. Mary Cyril Murray

2011 “Super Senior” Award Winner

Nominated by: Dana Toth - Odyssey Hospice

She can be seen riding her Honda scooter around Mt. Pleasant, visiting numerous nursing facilities and residences. She brings a smile and the word of God to those who are unable to attend faith services outside of their residence. She also spends time in the Christ Our King Senior Ministry Building sharing knowledge with any visitors that happen to stop by. In 2009, the Post and Courier named her “Nun on the Run”. She works as Director of Senior Ministries with Christ Our King church- her name is Sr. Mary Cyril Murray.

If you stop by to visit Sr. Mary, you may find that the desk chair is vacant. She may be in the back room meeting with someone, climbing the pull-down ladder to the attic, or simply out in the community visiting seniors and spreading cheer. While you wait, browse the array of brochures, educational literature, and support agency information that she has collected on topics such as hospice, grief counseling, financial issues, and addressing questions relating to a person’s faith and spirituality.

If you happen to get a chance to sit with her (by the way, she will always make time for you), you will encounter someone as knowledgeable (if not more so) than a healthcare professional in the community. My personal opinion is that she interacts with her neighbors and community people on such a level that she becomes an expert in what information is best for her local citizens. Be prepared to answer her investigative questions, aimed to clear up any confusion she may have encountered among locals regarding your service. Don’t worry; she is also quick to relay exactly where the confusion exists and how your organization can work to end it.

Sr. Mary has a long and storied history, filled with the wonderful ways that she has served her community, and I am sure that these vast experiences has made her the “Super Senior” that she is today. However, to give someone a “super” status is to believe they accomplish what others do not, they can be seen in multiple spots around the city, they are never too busy to help out someone else, and you are always amazed when you actually have the chance encounter to be in their presence. All of the previous phrases come to mind when I think of Sr. Mary. In fact, when I see her scooter parked at a nursing facility that I am visiting, I become a star-struck fan, hoping that maybe she will look my way and we’ll exchange smiles, or better yet, I’ll be quick on my feet and actually think of something to say to her. However, I realize that she is there for the good of the residents, not to eagerly please a simple fan like myself. Of course this thought makes me even prouder to have her in my community.

She would look great in a cape; the problem is it would probably get caught in the wheels of her scooter.