



*EUGENIA FESTINA DURING
December 29, 1953 - July 28, 2023*

*"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful."*



Good evening family and friends of Eugenia.

My name is Sylvia Porter, and I am the branch leader of MUTEK - the Mothers' Union Trinity Episcopal Church of Arlington, VA of which Eugenia has been a member since 2007.

The Mothers' Union for those of you who are not aware, is an international Christian charity that seeks to support families and people who are facing adversity worldwide.

The Mothers' Union is in 83 countries, with approximately 4 million members and provides a network through which we can serve Christ in our communities through prayer, financial support and actively working at the grassroots level in programs that meet local needs.

Eugenia was a well-respected and beloved and stalwart member of the Mothers Union at the provincial, diocesan and branch levels. At the provincial level MU USA, Eugenia just completed two terms as the Faith and Spirituality Coordinator, having led Mothers Union USA in spirit-filled prayers and services for various occasions. She became the Diocesan President for the Washington Area just this January and her leadership held promises.

At the branch level, Eugenia was a long-standing, fully participating member, a strong pillar who has been very instrumental in keeping MUTEK functioning into our 20th anniversary which we celebrate this year.

At one of our annual MUTEK retreats, (sometime in 2008/2009) The Rev. Kim Coleman charged us to come up with a MISSION STATEMENT for MUTEK to help us focus on who we want to be and what we want to do as a branch. Eugenia played a big role in developing it.

The Mothers' Union Branch of Trinity Episcopal Church (Arlington, VA) exists to develop prayer, spiritual growth, caring and support for each other so that we may empower members to take practical action to improve the condition of families in our community and to be an advocate for parents and children.

In 2015, Eugenia was elected the Faith and Spirituality Leader of MUTEK. True to our mission statement, she developed our prayer life at MUTEK to

another level. As Lettie John- Williams puts it “She was one of God’s chosen disciples to spread the gospel of Jesus. She was a spiritual leader who was able to guide MUTEK Members towards a deeper understanding of our faith and to grow in our spiritual relationship with God. She was a role model and source of inspiration to members.

Yvette Conell says of Eugenia – she was a devout and loyal member of MUTEK. As Faith and Spirituality Leader, she planned executed devotions for our monthly meetings with precision. She offered prayers for members when they celebrate birthdays or when they were bereaved or sick via email.

These personalized birthday prayers are so cherished that Madelene printed hers and has made it part of her daily devotion.

Victoria Fofanah says that Eugenia touched and blessed so many people with her faith and kindness . She was a very supportive and kind-hearted person. She truly believed in uplifting everyone in her circle including the Fofanah family. She was a prayer warrior and Vicky’s Google/go to person for information, advice on medical issues and much more. She would check on them every week.

Tonight, tomorrow and in the future, all who speak of her will attest to Eugenia’s FAITH.

Eugenia loved the Lord. She was zealous for God and made no bones about it. She was passionate about praying and for a good reason. She had seen the hand of the Lord at work in her life.

The Mothers’ Union is an organization bathed in prayer that seeks to promote prayerfulness. In our branch, MUTEK, we tried again and again to encourage prayer partners or prayer groups which would meet to pray regularly but it did not take hold until 2012. At the end of one of our meetings, as we socialized , we expressed how appalled we were at our then President Obama’s performance at a debate with Mitt Romney in Denver, CO. We concluded that we needed to lift Obama up in prayers. That was the start of our prayer circle consisting of Eugenia, Rita, Marion, Hulda, and me that has ever since convened every Friday evening. Our prayers cover the Mothers’ Union (worldwide, provincial, branch levels) our spouses, families, friends, the sick, the bereaved, the unemployed, our

political leaders, those facing adversity, wars, natural disasters.... We cover a wide range of people and events in our prayers.

It was during these prayer times on Fridays for the last 11 years that I really got to know Eugenia. She was PASSIONATE in her prayers and THANKFUL for everything... the air that she breathed, her functioning faculties, her extremities that worked, her husband, her children, grandchildren, her beloved **sister in love** , Hulda , her nieces, and nephews, - She was thankful for everyone and everything! She was the epitome of 1 Thessalonians 5:18¹⁸ In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thes 5:18

Eugenia was very fervent in her prayers. So fervent that we would sometimes tease her about the length of her selected bible verses and prayers, but she was undeterred! The Lord was attentive to our prayers and great is our usual rejoicing with the song "**He never failed me yet**" when our prayers are answered.

Eugenia was committed. She offered to serve a 3rd term as FAITH & SPIRITUALITY LEADER when there was no one to fill the position. For that, I'm ever so grateful.

She was inclusive, she found a way to bring everyone into the fold. In prayer services, she would assign reading or praying parts to almost everyone to keep us engaged and involved.

She was pleasant to work with. She was level-headed, soft-spoken, civil, gentle, and patient. I can't think of a time that I have ever seen her angry.*Oops, I just lied. There's a nameless someone who is in the news everyday that just rubbed her off the wrong way, infuriated and exasperated her! Yes, that guy... and also PUTIN! Eugenia always prayed for Putin!*

According to Lettie, Eugenia was known for her wisdom, compassion, humility, honesty, kindness, integrity, and ability to connect with us on a deeper level.

Yvette says that one of Eugenia's beliefs in life was the importance of being genuine and transparent with people. She was a wonderful, kind, and special person to all of us.

It was Maya Angelou who said: "I've learned that ...

- people will forget what you said,
- people will forget what you did, **but**
- people will never forget **how you made them feel.**"

Eugenia, indeed, people will never forget how you made them feel special and valued in God's sight.

Eugenia Festina During, according to 2 Timothy 4:7-8 - you have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for you the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to you on that day...

Rest in perfect peace our cherished friend and sister.

You will be greatly missed, but your memory will live on with us forever.

May God grant your gentle soul eternal rest and may light perpetual shine upon you.

In closing, we at MUTECH are all still stunned, shocked, shattered, devastated, by the unexpected loss of Eugenia. We are grieving right alongside all who love and know her. Rita says I'm saddened and broken-hearted to say goodbye to my dearest cousin and sister in Christ. Eugenia has left a void in our lives and in the MUTECH family that will never be filled. Her legacy and memories will live on!

Our heartfelt sympathy to you Richard, Patrick, Deanna, Richard Jnr, your spouses, and the grandchildren. Our sincere condolences to Hulda and Teddy, Boongie Thomas, Eustacia, Judith and the entire Cline Thomas and During families for this great loss. May God continue to comfort and console you at this time of grief. Eugenia loved you all so much and covered you all in prayers all the time. As we grieve, let's keep in mind that.

"Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

All our lives have been blessed and made richer for knowing Eugenia.