

## **PIONEER PARISHIONERS**

### **Flora Quaccia**

Native Californian Flora Quaccia was among the first parishioners at St. Matthias--long before there was a church. She notes, "I was happy to be a parishioner from the very beginning...It was a very welcoming parish...even when we went to mass in the old store."

She says, "We were attending St. Charles Church when we were told that our family lived in the area that now belonged to the St Matthias." She adds, "My husband and I went to the Rectory. After talking with Fr. Lacey and Fr. Casella, we knew we would fit right in with the new parish."

Her late husband (Laurence) was one of those who went door-to-door, telling people about the new church and finding the local Catholics. She states, "He also was active with church programs and served as an Usher."

Flora reports, "My favorite volunteer work for St. Matthias was helping with the Catechism Classes for the children. I also served in the Altar Society, cleaned the church, washed and ironed the altar cloths. Later I helped with the Bingo fund raisers."

In addition, Flora was active with the popular St. Matthias Bowling Club for 15 years. She adds, "And, for the last 5 years, I have served on the Money Counting Committee."

Flora was born in San Francisco and raised in Colma and Daly City with 2 brothers and a sister. According to Flora, "My jobs have included work with a bathing suit company, with Levi Strauss and a candy company. I also worked in the offices of an insurance firm and with the American Tobacco Company."

She met her husband at a Barn dance. They have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. She adds, "Most of them live locally, except one granddaughter who works as a graphic artist in New York."

Flora's parents were from Italy. She says, "I was delighted when my whole family went to visit my mother's hometown in Leivi on the Mediterranean Coast in 1973. I also enjoyed cruises and a trip to the Orient."

Flora has lived in the family home in Redwood City for 50+ years. She concludes, "I really love our frequent family get-togethers as well as working with my son on my garden."

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She notes, “We had lots of events in the early years, including big dinner parties.”

and my friends were always asking for free samples.”

*She also enjoyed lots of travel including cruises and a trip to the Orient.*

“Among the other bowlers were parishioners Mary Jane Dempsey and Irene Jarret.”

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Flora did volunteer work for the American Cancer Society and the Heart Fund.

She reports, “My husband, who served in battles all over Europe during WWII, was not eager to return. But he finally agreed to go and we all had a great time.”

She also worked in the Financial District for an insurance company

At the age of 13, she was working in a flower shop after school and weekends.