

Remembering Francine Abraham



Patron Saints are those whose walk with God and others. Patron Saints are so selfless and grace-filled that individuals, families, and groups – both large and small – count on them for advocacy and protection. Their capacity to love in heart and action is clear for all to see. Francine Abraham was the Patron Saint of The Neighborhood Academy – for our community as a whole and for all the students who were touched by her faith in our mission, her celebration of what we came to be over the years, and her prayerful actions of intercession on our behalf.

Patron Saints are a tenacious lot; they never give up. That tenacity was fundamental to who Francine was, leading her to serve on the Boards of Point Park University, Kelly Strayhorn Theater, City Theatre, Attack Theatre, and The Neighborhood Academy. It led her to raise children, sustain a marriage to Jim Abraham for 37 years, and commit to a 40-year career at Mellon Bank and Ernst & Young.

Francine was a philanthropist in the broadest and deepest sense. It was the gift of her time, her talent, and her heart that gave power to the gift of treasure. She took our seniors to Falling Water every year and to lunch in places that they would have never experienced – all to show them the world that was possible with vision, hope, and hard work. Francine truly enjoyed our students. She enjoyed advocating for them, hoping for them, and celebrating all that they could, and did become.

We will miss Francine Abraham, but of this, as a school of faith, we are sure; as our Patron Saint, she will be whispering in God's ear to remember The Neighborhood Academy. As a loving wife, she is enjoying the arts that God offers with her beloved Jim, and we are sure that we will see her again.

So, may God bless her, keep her; may His face shine upon her and give her peace, this day, tomorrow, and all the tomorrows to come. Amen.