



CYPRESS SPRINGS MERCEDARIAN PRAYER CENTER

“OPENING THE DOOR TO CHRIST”

-Sister Dulce Maria

FALL 2025



Mercedarian Sisters of the
Blessed Sacrament

17560 GEORGE O'NEAL ROAD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70817 – 225-752-8480 – WWW.CYPRESSSPRINGSPRAYERCENTER.ORG

DANNY'S CROSS WAS HEAVY

Written by Danny and Ann Farris

(Continued from Spring 2025 Newsletter)

Danny and Ann Farris's story began with Danny's diagnosis of Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Maxillary Sinus in January 2001. Sister Dulce was still in San Antonio. Danny was one of Sister Dulce's first appointments in Baton Rouge, LA in April 2001. (To read the first part of Danny and Ann's story go to our website, www.cypressspringsprayercenter.org, and see Spring 2025 Newsletter. The first part of Danny and Ann's story left off with Sister Dulce asking Our Lord to "Please allow Danny to stay with us," and Papa (through a private revelation) saying, "OK, I'll give him 40 years."

"Feeling assured and relieved that Danny would just heal on his own, I met with the neurosurgeon later that morning. The mass in the temporal lobe had to be removed in order for Danny to survive. Removed?!? What about the skull? The doctors at MD Anderson said the skull would collapse if they tried to remove the mass. His doctor said there was no other way; he couldn't stay on life support with his deteriorating condition. I was confused and scared. I needed time to consult with family and talk to Sister. I really thought Papa would just heal him without any further surgery. I spoke with Sister and she said to do what the doctor recommended. Papa will guide the surgeon.

The neurosurgeon said the procedure would take four hours, but in less than two hours, we were called to the consultation room. The doctor said the surgery went well and he was able to remove the mass from the temporal lobe of the brain and send it for biopsy. Danny would be in ICU for 3 to 5 days in a medically induced coma for his body to heal. Since the temporal lobe of the brain controls short term memory, Danny may have issues with short term memory. So relieved and thankful, I asked about the skull. **The surgeon said the skull was fine and there was no collapse or deterioration in the bone. The bones looked almost as if they had not been touched by radiation. Praise God for His perfect timing!**

Danny remained in a medically induced coma for another 3 days. We waited on the biopsy. We were overjoyed with the news from his radiation oncologist that the mass removed was benign. It was NOT cancer! Praise God! It had been a year and a half since Papa told us through Sister Dulce that Danny did not have cancer in the brain.

Recently, we had a conversation with Danny's brother about that night in 2004. A deputy friend of his on duty that night in the ER saw and overheard the neurosurgeon and other doctors and nurses talking about Danny's case. He said, 'I was standing where the doctors and nurses are, and the neurosurgeon walked out and said how many of y'all don't believe in miracles? Throwing the x-rays up for them to see, the surgeon said, look at this, medically, whenever the center line of your brain moves a quarter of an inch, you die, you're a vegetable (clinically brain dead). His center line is swollen past his pupil, the left side over here. He said, medically, there is no reason this guy is alive. If you don't believe in miracles, this is one right here. He's still alive; this scan tells me he's dead. He's alive that's all I can tell you. There is no reason, no medical reason. This is above what we can do. This is pure God intervention.'

From January, 2001 to February, 2004, Danny had gone through surgery, radiation, 3 months of chemo, more radiation, complications of blood clots from the chemo, seizures, a massive seizure that nearly took his life, life support and another surgery to remove the mass from his brain. There were miracles beyond our understanding and peace that only God could give us. Not only did our faith increase, we knew of many people who converted to the Catholic faith or came back home to the Catholic faith from hearing about Danny's journey.

From 2004 to 2008 Danny remained in stable condition. No signs of cancer and the complications from all the radiation he received were manageable for a while. Sometime after 2008, Danny began experiencing more pain and increased bleeding from his mouth. The scans showed no cancer but a severe complication of radiation called osteoradionecrosis (bone death). The bones in the area radiated were dying. There was little that doctors could do for it. The bleeding got more severe and by the Fall of 2012, Danny's condition was very serious.

October, 2012

Around 4 am one morning in October, 2012 I hear Danny scream for help. When I entered our bathroom, Danny was leaning over his sink with massive amounts of blood shooting from his mouth and nose. It looked like a firehose

of blood shooting out of his mouth. The blood was going everywhere, the wall, mirror, floor. It was a gruesome, frightening sight! I called 911...then I called Sister Dulce. **With Sister's prayers, the bleeding stopped!** When 911 arrived, they checked Danny and gave him the option to go to the ER, but he said he felt as though God had healed him and he would just wait and call his doctor later in the morning. A few days later (before his Dr. appointment), the same thing happened again. I called 911...then I called Sister Dulce. The bleeding stopped again, but this time the ambulance took him to the ER. Drs. could not determine the source of the bleeding so a head and neck surgeon took him to surgery. An hour later the Dr. reported that Danny had a carotid artery blow out. The surgeon was able to pack the area but the condition was life threatening. His skull was moving and parts of the skull were unstable. An Interventional Radiologist would determine if they could operate on Danny to save his life.

The Radiologist explained that all the radiation Danny received had caused the damage and bleeding from his carotid artery. Unfortunately, the location was in the area that runs through the base of the skull that is unrepairable. The suggested treatment was to use a procedure to block the artery on each side of the 'leak.' However, the risk is a stroke. There are three other arteries that deliver blood to the brain and most often there is ample blood supply. The Radiologist was not a religious man but an excellent surgeon. He told us, 'I don't know whether y'all are religious or not but, if you are, you better pray.' The procedure required Danny to be awake. The surgeon had only one chance for the procedure to work. It would either save Danny's life or he would die immediately.

The surgeon had to go past the opening in his carotid and put in the first coil (plug) and then to the second spot and do a second coil (plug). The critical part here is that many times the patients will bleed out and die at this point. **But NO blood came out. The doctor said I don't have any explanation for that.** He just couldn't believe it. We said God was keeping him from losing more blood. Sister Dulce prayed with us continually through this time and through her intercessory prayers, God guided the surgeon's hands and healed Danny.

Reconstructive Surgeries

Further scans revealed that the necrosis in the facial area and skull was so severe, Danny was at risk for even more devastating side effects. He was coughing up parts of his skull and the bleeding continued (though not as severe as the carotid artery). Doctors tried medications and hyperbaric treatments but none of these treatments helped. Sister Dulce prayed with us many times that God would provide a team of physicians to help Danny. She told us to trust in Our Lord and assured us God would provide.

First Reconstructive Surgery – July, 2015

After 2 years of physician appointments in Baton Rouge and at MD Anderson, scans, hyperbaric treatments, our prayers were answered when a group of 4 Surgeons at MD Anderson agreed to take on this risky but lifesaving surgery for Danny. We spent a year of planning with the surgeons at MD Anderson. The team consisted of a Head and Neck Surgeon, Ear Surgeon, Neurosurgeon and Reconstructive Surgeon.

The surgeries would be in 3 stages. The goal was to remove as much of the necrotic tissue and bone from the

facial area and skull and replace it with healthy tissue and bone. It would involve a transplant of muscle and blood vessels from Danny's thigh to the base of the skull and in the facial area. The doctors prepared us for a very long journey. The first surgery took place on July 20, 2015 and lasted over 20 hours with each specialist taking on a certain section of Danny's skull and facial area. There were many miracles throughout this time of surgery and recovery. Through Sister's intercessory prayers, God guided each surgeon's hand. The Ear surgeon was able to remove enough bone, opening the area up for the other surgeons to do their work. The Head and Neck surgeon was able to remove the majority of necrotic tissue and bone from the upper jaw and sinus area. The neurosurgeon removed dead tissue and bone from the base of the skull that was close to the brain. In God's perfect timing, the neurosurgeon also found and successfully removed pockets of infection in the lining of Danny's brain. Had he not found the infection, the pockets of infection would have burst in his brain and killed him. The Reconstructive surgeon removed healthy blood vessels and muscle and tissue from Danny's legs and attached it to the areas where the dead tissue and bone were removed. Due to the length and extent of the surgery, Danny had a tracheotomy for breathing and a peg tube in his stomach for nourishment. Danny's recovery in the hospital took several weeks and by the grace of God, he was able to return to work in a few months.

Second Reconstructive Surgery – June, 2017

The Second Reconstructive Surgery took place June 26, 2017 to try to improve the quality of Danny's life. The Head and Neck surgeon removed remaining necrotic tissue and bone from his upper jaw and the Reconstructive surgeon would rebuild the upper jaw with the fibula bone from his right calf and muscle from his thigh. The Reconstructive surgeon would also work to improve the operability of his lower jaw and relieve collapsed nasal cavity to improve breathing and hearing. The surgery was quite involved and very long (about 18 hours). There was also an extensive recovery period requiring a tracheotomy and a feeding tube again. Danny's recovery in the hospital took several weeks and by the grace of God, he was able to return to work in a few months.

Third Reconstructive Surgery – September, 2018

The final phase of reconstructive surgery took place on September 11, 2018 at MD Anderson. Doctors took an impression of Danny's upper jaw for an upper denture and rebuilt his upper lip to cover the denture using muscle and skin from his arm and leg. The doctors also tried to relieve collapsed nasal cavity to improve breathing and hearing. Fortunately, this surgery only took about 6 hours and did not require a tracheotomy or feeding tube.

Today - July 2025

Since his last reconstructive surgery in 2018, Danny has made great progress in his daily life, work and activities. He continues to have challenges and complications from the osteoradionecrosis yet he takes up his cross daily and offers it to Our Lord for others. He is a wonderful reminder that with God all things are possible. Our lives have forever changed because of cancer and we are much the better for it. We have learned how to appreciate and embrace the cross."

To Sister Dulce

We thank you for all for your prayers, love and support through the years. God has answered your prayers for our family and we are forever grateful. There have been several critical points throughout our journey but God will always be with us. We don't always understand the why, but we know He is there and desire His will be done.

The prayer below is one that Sister gave us several years ago. The prayer thanks God for every "Simon" that He has sent to help bear the cross. Thank you, Sister Dulce, for being our "Simon" and bearing our cross with us.

God bless, Danny and Ann Farris

PRAYER FOR ALL WHO CARRY THEIR CROSS

"O my God, I thank You for this cross You've allowed me to carry. Please give me the strength and faith to persevere so that I may bring glory to Your Name, all while withstanding the burden of its weight. Thank You for offering me a share in Your suffering. I know You have always been, are now, and ever will be, at my side every step of the way. Thank You also for every "Simon" You have sent to help me bear this cross. I've prayed so often that this thorn in my flesh would be removed, but I trust that Your grace is sufficient. Change my heart's troubled cry of: *"How long Lord?"* into

words of trust: *"However long, O Lord."* May I seek only to do Your will, and to unite my sufferings with Your passion. Help me to not get lost in my own self-concerns, but that I may find in these trials a way to greater virtue, a call to prayer, and a path to trust in You *alone*. Permit me not to waste my pain, but to make of all these struggles a sacrificial offering for others, Lord; when I am weary and I fall, exhausted under the weight of this cross, please give me the courage to press on as You did. Lord Jesus, I embrace with love my cross, as a share in Your own. By Your grace, may I carry it all the way to the vision of Your glory. I abandon myself totally to Your will. Christ Jesus, I trust in You. Amen." Fr. Charles E. Irvin, Novena Prayer



Sister Dulce Maria Ghouse



Want to Honor or Memorialize Someone Special in your life?

Consider purchasing a brick on the path Sister Dulce and the Mercedarian Sisters take to the Chapel of Divine Providence each day. There are just a few bricks left to sponsor. To order your brick, focus your phone camera on the QR Code to the left and it will take you directly to our website to order your brick.

Walk of Memories Brick

Honor a loved one with this
custom Brick placed along our
walk of memories.



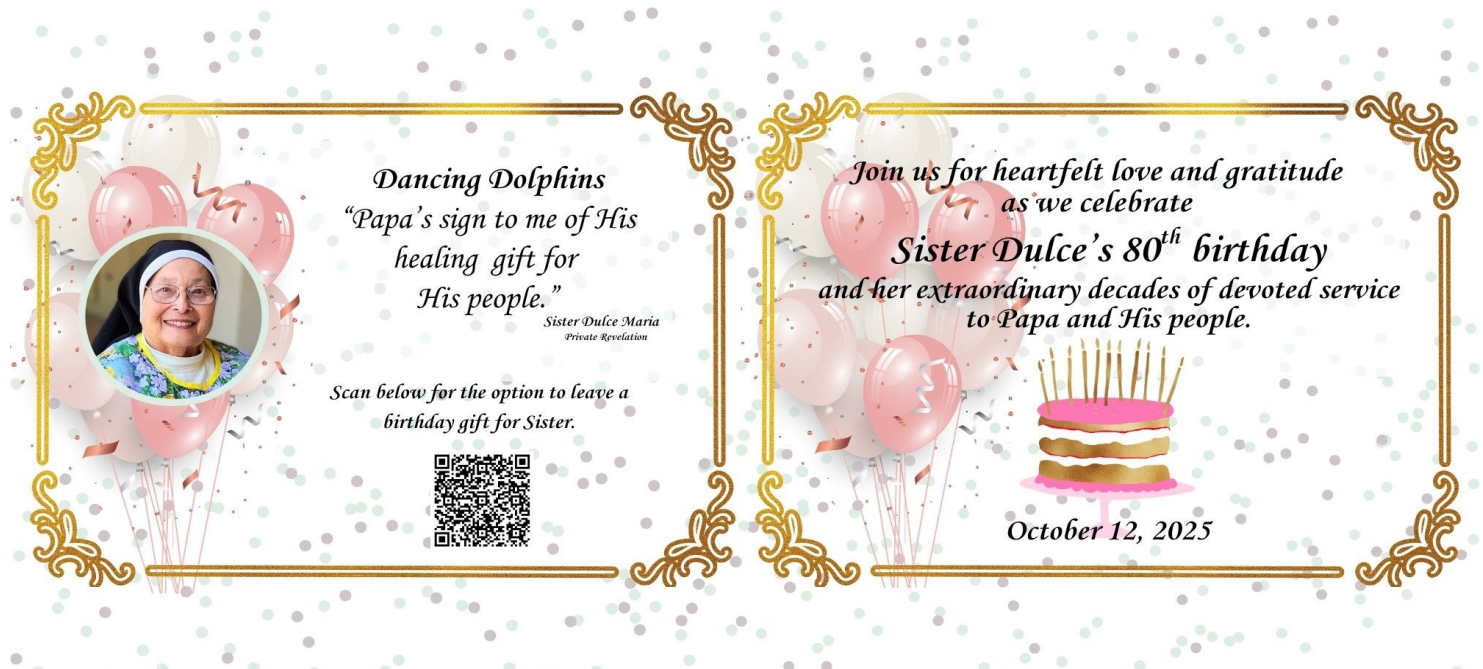
\$200

If you have any questions
call 225-752-8480.



CYPRESS SPRINGS MERCEDARIAN PRAYER CENTER EVENTS

- ◆ **17TH ANNUAL DINING BY DESIGN FUNDRAISER & SISTER DULCE'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**
Sunday, October 12, 2025 - 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
(TO PURCHASE TICKETS CALL 225-752-8480)



- ◆ **ENCOUNTER SCHOOL OF MINISTRY OF BATON ROUGE, LA (ESMBR) Classes Begin Wednesday, September 10, 2025 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**
(Go online - www.cypressspringsprayercenter.org - to register)
- ◆ **LA POSADA CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**
Sunday, December 7, 2025 - 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Free Event)
- ◆ **MICHAEL O'NEILL, MIRACLE HUNTER - RETREAT**
Saturday, January 31, 2026 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
(Go online - www.cypressspringsprayercenter.org - to register)
- ◆ **JEFF CAVINS RETREAT**
Saturday, March 7, 2026 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
(Go online - www.cypressspringsprayercenter.org - to register)
- ◆ **ST. JOSEPH ALTAR**
Sunday, March 15, 2026 - 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. (Free Event)

Instagram



Shepherd's Staff

GIFT SHOP

Facebook



**ORNATE CRUCIFIX
STATUE**



**OUR LADY OF GRACE
GARDEN STATUE**



**ORIGINAL WATERCOLOR
ON GOLD STAND**



**TRENDY NEW SCARF
NECKLACE WITH CROSS
CHARMS**



shepherdsstaffgiftshop.com

**OPEN
MON.-THUR.
9A.M. - 3P.M.**



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES
SWADDLE**

SHEPHERD'S STAFF GIFT SHOP OFF-SITE EVENTS

- ◆ **TINSEL AND TREASURES HOLIDAY MARKET, LAFAYETTE, LA**
Thursday-Saturday, September 25-27, 2025
- ◆ **MERRY MARKET HOLIDAY SHOW, LAMAR/DIXON, GONZALES, LA**
Friday-Sunday, November 7-9, 2025
- ◆ **HOLIDAY MARKET AT THE MILL, NEW ROADS, LA**
Friday-Sunday, November 21-23, 2025
- ◆ **NOTRE DAME SEMINARIAN LUNCHEON, NEW ORLEANS, LA**
Tuesday, December 2, 2025
- ◆ **DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE 2025 CONVOCATION CELEBRATING CATECHISTS**
Saturday, August 23, 2025, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Baton Rouge, LA

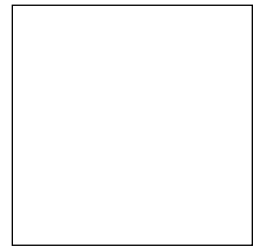


CYPRESS SPRINGS MERCEDARIAN PRAYER CENTER

"OPENING THE DOOR TO CHRIST"
-Sister Dulce Maria



Mercedarian Sisters of the
Blessed Sacrament



17560 George O'Neal Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70817 - 225-752-8480 - www.cypressspringsprayercenter.org

SISTER DULCE MARIA WORD FIND PUZZLE



CYPRESS SPRINGS
MERCEDARIAN PRAYER CENTER
"OPENING THE DOOR TO CHRIST"
-Sister Dulce Maria



M	Y	A	P	C	H	L	Z	M	S	D	O	J	V	I
I	I	H	H	C	P	C	A	B	I	N	L	P	G	E
W	E	T	U	C	I	K	I	U	N	G	S	O	E	T
C	V	L	V	E	H	S	C	K	G	E	I	H	T	I
T	O	S	L	H	H	A	U	O	I	H	S	Y	O	Q
Q	A	N	S	O	P	E	P	B	N	M	T	I	V	G
C	P	R	V	P	B	H	U	E	G	I	E	E	E	U
P	R	A	Y	E	R	J	G	D	L	N	R	T	R	C
P	O	E	D	V	N	N	S	I	C	I	S	W	I	S
F	A	I	T	H	I	T	M	E	S	S	U	C	T	L
E	U	P	W	L	H	U	V	N	S	T	T	E	R	J
G	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	C	B	R	V	H	U	X
I	T	E	I	G	L	O	V	E	H	Y	I	O	S	C
T	H	M	L	I	L	C	O	L	T	T	O	S	T	N
P	I	E	C	H	L	A	A	C	K	I	L	R	A	

CABIN CHAPEL CONVENT FAITH GETOVERIT
GUIDE HEALING HOPE HUMILITY LAUGHTER
LOVE MINISTRY OBEDIENCE PAPA PRAYER
PUGS SINGING SISTERS TEACHER TRUST

Donate Today

Support Sister Dulce's Ministry
by Donating Below



17560 George O'Neal Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70817
225-752-8480—www.cypressspringsprayercenter.org