

VIOLET I. DERRICK
1924-2013



I extend profound condolences to the family and friends of the beloved deceased, Violet Derrick, whose journey in this world came to an end on Friday, March 29, 2013, when she was called home to meet her creator. In life she was a totally devoted mother to her children, Roseclare Neverson and Cornelia Clarke-England of Toronto, Canada, and Frank “Monty” Clarke of Washington, DC, United States of America.

Ms. Derrick, also affectionately known as “Sister Cambridge” and “Ma Violet,” was born on July 1, 1924, at Grand Sable Estate in the Parish of Charlotte, on the North East of St. Vincent. She was the fourth of six children, three boys and three girls. She grew up in Sion Hill with her maternal grand-parents, in the large and closely knit Cambridge family. Her father, a skilled craftsman, was one of the early wave of Vincentians who journeyed to Panama and Venezuela to work on the construction of the Panama Canal, and in the petroleum industry, respectively. Her mother joined her spouse in Venezuela, after he contracted Scarlet Fever. Shortly afterwards they both died of the disease.

Violet was a long-standing resident, and pillar of the Sion Hill/ Frenches community. She was a committed Christian and a dedicated member of the Streams of Power Church for over forty years. She lived her life in service to her children, of which she had more than her natural offspring, charity, church and community. Sister Cambridge was a strict disciplinarian, but a kind and loving presence to those whom she considered her charges.

She was an ardent sports enthusiast, and had an abiding passion for the game of cricket. The great Sir Garfield Sobers and local all-rounder, Samuel “Sparrow” Duncan, were her favorite players. Her enthusiasm and energy during matches, live or on radio and television, clearly marked her as a Vincentian member of the “Tantie Merle West Indies Cricket Fan Club.”

Short in stature, but tall in character, this little lady was an inestimable source of joy and fun to those around her. She imbued her clan with qualities of humility, faith, discipline and love. For these and countless other shared life experiences and lessons, her children and loved ones will always be grateful.

During the last decade of her life “Ma Violet” was stricken by dementia, which severely restricted her mobility, and denied her the opportunity to attend church, travel to the Kingstown Market, and visit friends and neighbors. Those who knew her well would fully understand how devastating this was to such an active and dynamic person. As we say farewell to dear Violet, let us remember, and pray for, all those suffering with this debilitating condition.

H.E. Kingsley C.A. Layne, C.M.G