

Personal Reflection – January 27, 2023

## **Affirmation: Lavish Indeed!**

Somehow, this story from fifty years ago came to mind as I was enjoying a morning coffee today in my glorious sunroom.

My mother, Kitty, lay in an upstairs bedroom in my sister Joan's home. These were Mother's last days, and she was blessed to have in me, the worst possible nurse. I did my best, which was not THE best care.

Each Friday a (real) nurse came for a home visit. I welcomed her with open arms, and Mother smiled her welcome weakly from her bed. I was, as usual, ready to offer the nurse whatever she needed. This Friday, however, she asked for some strange support: "Jane, please get me some white paper from the printer, as well as some scotch tape."

I wondered what she was up to, but I hurried to get those two things for her: white paper from the printer, and scotch tape!

The nurse thanked me and asked me to sit next to Mother's bed. She took the paper and began to fold it, and to shape it with the tape into A NURSE'S CAP! Smiling, she asked me to stand and gently put the cap on my head.

"Jane, I cap you as a good nurse," she solemnly declared, and Mother added her smile to the ceremony.

I remember that I choked up and tears fell. I had not earned my homemade R.N. cap. However, the nurse's lavish affirmation gave me energy to continue my sometime clumsy service with new confidence. And mother smiled.

--Jane Vella