



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Sister Margaret Duffy (Jean Marie) was a native of Columbus, Ohio, and was one of eight children born to James and Susan (Handiboe) Duffy. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers: John, Edward, Joseph and Billy; and her sisters: Sister Mary Duffy, OSF, Catherine Hoffman and Terese Weisenbach.

Before entering religious life, Sister Margaret was a member of St. Thomas Parish in Columbus, Ohio, and attended the parish grade school. She graduated from St. Mary High School in Columbus and earned a bachelor of arts degree from the College of St. Francis (University of St. Francis) in Joliet, Illinois, and a master of arts degree from DePaul University in Chicago.

Margaret Duffy was a “go to” person in all her roles in life. Margie, as the family called her, was from her earliest days blessed with a pleasant disposition which she always attributed to the Handiboe genes. She would take life as it came and with a flexibility and straight forward, no nonsense approach that endeared her to many. When Margaret met the Sisters of Saint Francis from Joliet at Saint Mary High School in Columbus, Ohio, she immediately knew her calling to be a Sister. Mary Duffy, her oldest sister, was communicating with the Sisters about entering herself, but times were hard and Mary was, for a while at least, the only full time worker in the family, using skills honed in her business courses at St. Mary's. Margaret knew that after graduation she, too, would have to help support the family, and she did so for two years working at the U.S. Army Depot as a secretary to Colonel Morrill. But in January of 1944, Margaret left home to enter the postulancy. The advice of her father that morning was, “Do what the Sisters tell you to do.” Margaret would recall those words many times during her nearly 70 years in our Congregation, and she rightly believed that she followed them.

Sister Margaret spent her life in education and in Joliet, Illinois, never serving in any institutions other than Saint Francis Academy and the College, now University of St. Francis. Margaret loved teaching business subjects, working as a counselor, and her work as registrar at CSF. Her wit and candor were well known by both faculties. She had a way of challenging the status quo with a blunt common sense approach to problems and was often quoted by those who worked closely with her. She touched the lives of many students in her early years, and contributed much stability during the significant times of the proposed merger of the college and the innovations of co-education and computer scheduling and grading. Margaret knew everyone on the CSF campus and, although she disliked attention to herself, thoroughly enjoyed “Sister Margaret Duffy Day,” a surprise by her colleagues at Wilcox and Taylor.

Margaret thrived on Vatican II, the vernacular Mass, collegiality and co-responsibility, and she co-chaired many Chapter committees as we worked our way through the demanding and sometimes difficult transitions of examining the Constitutions and Directives in the light of our founders. Margaret started her community life in the large group settings of the Academy and the College, but as time went on she lived in smaller groups with the College faculty at Whitney and in retirement

Alleluia!



Sister Margaret Duffy, OSF

at the Motherhouse and Guardian Angel Home before choosing to live at Our Lady of Angels. Margaret's ability to make decisions aided her in each of these roles, and often she was the person from whom others sought opinions, knowing that she would act on a situation if it seemed the right thing to do. She lived by Sister Christine (Hortense) Fahrenbach's saying, “The one who sees the problem is anointed to solve it.”

The 21 nieces and nephews of Mary and Margaret always heard the Sisters referred to as “the girls,” when they were due for a visit or when their Christmas shoeboxes of “notions” and candy were being prepared for Christmas. Their home visits were a staple of family gatherings and for the oldest nieces and nephews the early visits to Joliet for their receptions and professions were considered a summer vacation! Margaret's easy going nature made her especially approachable. One nephew even wrote a letter to the “girls” asking their intercession with his parents to approve his engagement at 19 to his now wife of 52 years, who at the time was only 18. On this occasion, as on many, Mary and Margaret saw eye-to-eye despite their clear differences, and when Mary retired to Our Lady of Angels, Margaret was a loyal companion to Mary. One of the revolutionary changes that Margaret experienced relatively recently, however, involved their differences. After living at O.L.A. for about two years and enjoying what we called “doing nothing well,” Margaret discovered television's MSNBC. As a result, she expressed, “I finally understand Mary!” She had discovered politics, the presidential campaign, the expression of ideas of commentators, and she was hooked.

Sister Margaret Duffy, then, was a person of candor, loyalty and prayer. She loved the daily Mass, the lives of the saints, the lives of foundresses of religious communities, the Divine Office, and the liberation of spirit and responsibilities that Vatican II gave to all in the Church. Margaret appreciated the faithfulness of classmates and friends and often would speak out on behalf of anyone whom she felt needed a voice. We are grateful for the life of Margaret among us and recommend her to God. The Duffy-Handiboe-Gallaher family had cousins over the years at motherhouses in Baden, Pennsylvania; Dubuque, Iowa; Springfield, Illinois; and Detroit, Michigan. One of the members of the Dubuque Franciscans sent Margaret a saying that she used as a mantra in these last two years: “God, come when You are ready, and make me ready when You come.” Margaret was ready on December 6, 2012, when God called her home — the last of her immediate family — to join so many of her Sisters who had gone before her as she now sees her God face to face.

Sister Margaret Duffy, OSF

December 19, 1922 — December 6, 2012

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| <i>Born:</i> | December 19, 1922 |
| <i>Parents:</i> | James P. Duffy and Susan M. (Handiboe) Duffy |
| <i>Postulancy:</i> | January 29, 1944 |
| <i>Novitiate:</i> | August 12, 1944 |
| <i>First Profession:</i> | August 12, 1946 |
| <i>Final Profession:</i> | August 12, 1949 |
| <i>Entered New Life:</i> | December 6, 2012 |

Ministry History

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| 1947-1953 | Teacher: Typing, Shorthand, Bookkeeping, English: St. Francis Academy, Joliet, Illinois |
| 1953-1954 | Teacher: Typing, Stenography, Bookkeeping, Senior Homeroom, Assistant Director Thespians: St. Francis Academy |
| 1954-1955 | Teacher: Stenography, Bookkeeping, Senior Homeroom, Office Practice, Business Manager-Focus: St. Francis Academy |
| 1955-1956 | Teacher: Stenography, Typewriting, Bookkeeping, Office Practice, Assistant Director-Thespians, Business Manager-Focus, Senior Homeroom: St. Francis Academy |
| 1956-1957 | Teacher: Typewriting, General Business, Stenography, Senior Homeroom, Director-Thespians: St. Francis Academy |
| 1957-1958 | Teacher: Stenography, Typing, General Business, Senior Homeroom, Office Work: St. Francis Academy |
| 1958-1959 | Teacher: Stenography; Guidance Counselor: St. Francis Academy |
| 1959-1960 | Teacher: Office Practice, Typing; Guidance Counselor: St. Francis Academy |
| 1960-1961 | Teacher: Typing, Office Practice; Guidance Counselor, SFA Club, Student Council: St. Francis Academy |
| 1961-1962 | Teacher: Office Practice; Guidance Counselor, Student Council: St. Francis Academy |
| 1962-1963 | Assistant Principal, Guidance Councilor, Assistant Moderator of Parents' Association: St. Francis Academy |
| 1963-1996 | Registrar: College of St. Francis, Joliet |
| 1997-2000 | Clerical Duties: College of St. Francis |
| 2000-2003 | Treasurer for Sisters: Motherhouse, Joliet |
| 2003-2008 | Community Service to Sisters: Guardian Angel Home 2 South, Joliet |
| 2008-2012 | Community Service: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet |

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| <i>Wake:</i> | Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet |
| <i>Prayer Service:</i> | Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet |
| <i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i> | Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet |
| <i>Burial:</i> | Wednesday, December 12, 2012, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois |
| <i>Interment:</i> | Section 8, Lot 350, Grave 10, Resurrection Cemetery |
| <i>Predeceased by:</i> | By her parents, James P. Duffy and Susan M. (Handiboe) Duffy; her brothers, John, Edward, Joseph and Billy; her sisters, Sr. Mary Duffy, OSF, Catherine Hoffman and Terese Weisenbach |
| <i>Survived by:</i> | Many nieces and nephews, including her niece, Sr. Margaret Hoffman, OSF, also a member of the Sisters of St. Francis |

Rest in Peace, Sister Margaret