

SISTER MARILYN DONOVAN O.S.F. (Dorothy) 649

Born: January 16, 1916
Parents: John J. and Mary Ellen (Dwyer) Donovan
Postulancy: September 8, 1933
Novitiate: August 12, 1934
First Profession: August 12, 1936
Final Profession: August 12, 1939
Died: Saturday, February 11, 1989 at 5:00 a.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



Ministry:

1936 - 1937 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Student
1937 - 1938 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Religion, English, Latin,
Algebra, History, Typing
1938 - 1940 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Convalescing
1940 - 1941 St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL, Convalescing, Assisting
with Domestic Work
January 1941 St. Mary, Rock Island, IL, Domestic Work
1941 - 1945 St. Mary, Rock Island, IL, Domestic Work
1945 - 1947 Sacred Heart, Lillyville, IL, Domestic Work
December 1947 St. Mary, Rock Island, IL, Grades 7 & 8
1947 - 1948 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 4
1948 - 1954 St. Mary, Fairfield, AL, Grade 2
January 1955 St. Joseph, Pesotum, Grades 1 & 2
1955 - 1956 St. Joseph, Pesotum, Grades 1 & 2
1956 - 1962 St. John, Loveland, CO, Grades 1 & 2
1962 - 1964 Annunciation, Aurora, IL, Grade 2
1964 - 1969 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
1969 - 1984 SS. Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
1984 - 1988 Jesus Our Brother, Chicago, IL, Tutoring

Wake: Monday, February 13, 1989 from 2 - 7 p.m. with a prayer service
at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Monday, February 13, 1989 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday, February 14, 1989, Resurrection Cemetery.

Survived by: sister, Mrs. Stephen Grohar, many nieces, nephews and cousins

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, 1989, at 5:00 a.m., Sr. Marilyn Donovan was born to life eternal.

Sr. Marilyn was at OLA recuperating from hip surgery. She was active the day before her death, visiting her doctor, laughing and joking with her sister about a Valentine present. But unexpectedly and quietly, she died in her sleep.

Dorothy Donovan was a "Joliet girl". She was born January 16, 1916 to John and Mary Ellen Donovan. Her heritage was Irish, and she was proud of it, delighting in discovering her roots during her visits to Ireland. Her mother died when she was only four, leaving her father and a devoted aunt to raise her and her older sister. She has remained close to her family, and will be missed by her devoted sister, Patricia, and her many cousins, nieces and nephews.

The saying "we minister more by who we are than what we do" describes Sr. Marilyn. Whether she served as a classroom teacher, baker, tutor or sacristan, she did it with a characteristic liveliness and generosity that identifies who she was.

She was a missionary in Alabama from 1948 until 1954. Her family and friends remember those days well, as they constantly responded to her requests to empty their closets and send boxes for her needy black children.

Chicago became home for her. The last twenty two years of her life were spent in that city, most of them at SS Peter and Paul Parish. She loved the Parish and did all she could to keep it alive. She delighted to "hop on the bus" for a day in the city which always included Mass and confession at St. Peter's Church in the loop. Chicago was her kind of town, and even the day before she died she was making plans to return.

Sr. Marilyn entered the Congregation when she was seventeen, surprising many of her friends. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1986. She was a community woman. In 1968 she wrote "I will give to the Sisters I live with some humor, warmth, companionship, and my inclination to cook. In return, I need from my Sisters someone to listen to my tales, and someone to put me straight when I'm carried away by my opinions". She knew how to live in community; she knew how to be a good friend to many of our Sisters. Wherever she was she brought laughter and good times. She was a "baker lady", kneading the dough with love, delighting others with her famous pecan rolls. She knew ways of making a convent a home.

There was a smile on her lips and a twinkle in her eye, even when she experienced pain and illness. As a young sister she had T.B., and was brought from the infirmary in a wheelchair to make her final vows. She had serious spinal surgery, a stroke, and twice a broken hip. Through all these times of suffering she remained the cheerful and grateful Sr. Marilyn. And there was the serious, prayerful Sr. Marilyn that those who knew her best saw day after day. Her devotion to the rosary, her worn Community Manual, her holy hours each Sunday from three to four, all spoke of a prayer life rooted in faith. She would say that it was this faith that kept the smile in her heart and on her lips.

We are grateful Sr. Marilyn for your many years as our Sister. We will miss you. We pray that that you are experiencing the full meaning of your favorite Psalm 23. We know you are with the Lord who is Your Shepherd, and that you do not want, and that you are dwelling in the House of the Lord forever. Amen. Alleluia.

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