

SISTER MARY MOORE O.S.F. (Nathaniel) 663

Born: June 29, 1930
Parents: Rolland A. and Agnes M. (Hugenroth) Moore
Postulancy: September 5, 1955
Novitiate: August 13, 1956
First Profession: August 12, 1958
Final Profession: August 12, 1961
Died: January 17, 1990



Ministry:

1958 - 1961 St. Rita, Aurora, IL, Grade 5 & 6
1961 - 1963 Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, Grade 7
1963 - 1965 St. Paul, Joliet, IL, Grade 7
1965 - 1968 St. John the Evangelist, Loveland, CO, Superior, Principal
Grades 7 & 8
1968 - 1969 St. Mark, Wheaton, IL, Superior & Principal
1969 - 1971 St. John the Evangelist, Loveland, CO, Superior & Principal
1971 - 1972 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Novitiate Administration
1972 - 1975 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Vocation Counselor
1975 - 1979 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Director Congregation Office
of Studies and Ministry Guidance
1979 - 1986 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Director of Student Services
Guidance Counselor
1986 - 1989 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Director of Affiliates
1989 - 1990 Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, Joliet, IL, Volunteer

Wake: Friday, January 19, 1990 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
with Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, January 19, 1990 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Saturday, January 20, 1990 at 9:00 a.m.
Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by: Brothers: Joseph (Geneva), Thomas, and William (Virginia)
Sisters: Theresa (Daryl) Smith and Ruth Viers
Brother-in-law: Francis Pittenger

We will cherish our memories of our sister, Mary Moore. We will remember her as:

a wholesome woman of laughter: Mary knew how to make us laugh. Her "pew shaking laughter" lightened our spirits. She knew how to find humor in life, and to share it with us.

a compassionate woman of tears: Mary knew how to listen with a tender heart, and often wept with those who were experiencing difficulties or pain.

a fun-loving woman of simple joys: Mary relished her "peak moments" such as Colorado mountains, Coors beer, adventures with the "mall mice", and even Perry Como.

a talented woman of song: Mary sang and brought beautiful harmony to so many Congregation prayers and celebrations. She was always generous in sharing her talent with all who asked.

a faithful woman of friendship: Mary was a "forever friend", one who was always there in faithful presence, and commitment.

a consecrated woman of God: Mary loved her God, and revered her religious commitment. As one of our Sisters wrote to her: "I have no doubt but that you will be embraced by the God you have cherished (and have been cherished by) through all your years."

Mary, we thank you for your years with us as sister and friend. You have touched our lives in many ways, and we will miss you. We believe in the Communion of Saints and that you continue to be our sister and friend. Blessed are you Mary, for we trust that your belief in the Promise of the Lord is being fulfilled, now and forever. Amen! Alleluia!

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

On Wednesday afternoon, January 17, 1990, at 2:35 p.m., our Sister Mary Moore was born to life eternal. Mary was fifty-nine years old. Mary always believed it was in her "genes" to live a long life. She did not expect to die so young, and we weren't ready to lose her so soon. In July, 1988, Mary was diagnosed as having cancer. Her response was to embrace life and she chose to endure a year of chemotherapy with all the sickness and humiliation it entailed. In November, 1989, she was told that her condition was terminal. She returned from the hospital to her community home at Guardian Angel, 3N., as a hospice patient.

Mary taught us through her journey to death. We watched her struggle through denial and fear to courageous acceptance and peace. She allowed us to enter her life, greeted us with welcome in her eyes. She spent the last weeks of her life saying her goodbyes, listening and responding to tender words of love, friendship, gratitude and prayer. Even in her final hours she would raise her eyebrows in response to those around her. She died gently, surrounded by our Sisters. We experienced many sacred and grace-filled moments with her. "Surely the presence of the Lord" was in her.

Mary Moore was born on June 29, 1930 in Shelby, Ohio to Agnes and Rolland Moore. She was the youngest of seven children, the "little one" dearly loved by her older sisters and brothers. Her family visited and suffered with her during her illness. They are a devoted family, and will miss their Mary very much.

Mary was twenty-five when she entered the Congregation, and she celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1983. She ministered as a classroom teacher and a high school guidance counselor. When we speak of Mary the minister, we think of a woman always responsive to the call of her Congregation. Over half of her thirty-one years in ministry was a "yes" to requests to be principal, superior, Vocation Director, Congregation Director of Studies and Ministry, and Affiliate Director. We will always remain grateful to her for her love and concern for the newest Congregation members. She had the difficult role of integrating them into the Congregation. She inspired them through her example of Franciscan love and simplicity, and supported them by her encouragement, challenge and affirmation.

Mary believed in sharing her days with her Sisters in community. Those who have lived with her speak of the quality of her presence with them. One of her last requests was to continue to live in her small community during her final days. Her community responded "yes", and she was grateful. They cared for her as sister and friend with gentle touch and faithful presence, representing all of us in a testimony of love.

