



Remembering Sister Margaret (Ignatiana) Donoghue, IHM

July 3, 1917 - Oct. 19, 2008

All who knew Sister Margaret recognized her as a multi-talented sister who shared her gifts with us for 70 years. She was equally at home with the first graders, whom she loved teaching, and with the Marygrove students, whom she counseled as they made their way through the thickets of college life for which many were inadequately prepared. Born to Mary Ellen Kelly and John Thomas Donoghue in Peterboro, Ontario, on July 3, 1917, she was the youngest in a family of three other girls and one brother; Mary, the eldest, Emmet, Kathy and Gertrude.

All the Donoghue children received their early education in Canada. When they moved to St. Benedict's parish in Detroit, Margaret was taught by St. Joseph sisters until the ninth grade. While in St. Benedict's parish, her brother Emmet's death from spinal meningitis during the Easter vacation of his senior year brought sorrow to the whole family. Her father was especially affected by the loss of his only son and shortly after he himself died.

After their father's death, the family moved to St. Agnes parish to enable the older girls to prepare to support the family. Both studied at Providence Hospital where Mary became a medical technician, Kathy a nurse.

In 1935, Margaret's sister, Gertrude, entered St. Mary Convent, where she took the name Sister Mary Emmet. Margaret followed Sister Mary Emmet to the convent, entering in 1937, taking the name Sister Ignatiana.

In preparation for her future teaching, Margaret earned a bachelor's degree from Marygrove in 1957 and a master's from Notre Dame in 1962. Over the years, Margaret received five or six National Science Foundation grants for further study. In 1965 she received a certificate of award and merit as one of eight outstanding chemistry teachers in Summit and Washtenaw counties.

Margaret's teaching career began in 1940 at St. John's school in Jackson. For the next 12 years she taught in various Michigan schools, primarily in first grade. In 1953 and for 11 succeeding years, she taught science in high school, primarily biology and chemistry. During these years she also served as a counselor, having pursued course work in counseling over the years. She was moderator of the National Honor Society students, which provided the opportunity for a number of trips to New York City as well as Niagara Falls with the students. Margaret enjoyed travel and was a delightful travel companion.

In 1970 Margaret became Director of Residents at Marygrove College. Other positions at Marygrove included three years in the Admissions Office. For nine years (1974-1983) she served as registrar and for another six years she was director of special services. When she retired to the Motherhouse in 1991, she was a member of the LARC staff and also assisted the sisters with their financial transactions which she organized with her usual efficiency until 2005. Margaret enjoyed water color painting and reading. She had resided in Health Care since 2006.

I hope this brief summary attests to her many gifts and talents which blessed our lives for many years.

Sister Christa DePrimo, IHM
October 23, 2008