

In Memory of Sister Margaret Mary O'Rourke, SA

Sister Margaret Mary O'Rourke was born to Edward O'Rourke and Mary Arlene (Fuller) O'Rourke in Detroit, MI on December 20, 1928. Sister was one of five children. She is survived by her sisters, Nancy Lenyel and Carol Livingston and her brothers, Edward and William O'Rourke, and numerous nieces and nephews.

When asked, "What legacy are you leaving for those who will come after you?" This is her response: *"While still a teen, I answered and followed the Lord's call to leave all physical contact with family and friends and devoted myself completely to following the Franciscan rule of simplicity. Moving to missions throughout the United States, I learned to accept and adapt to cultural and racial diversity. Teaching children and adults and preparing them to receive the sacraments planted seeds of faith to grow for generations.*



"The radical changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council never changed my determination to always be seen in public with recognizable signs of my religious vocation. While embracing the new freedoms, I still chose to wear the habit.

"In later years of my career, significant bodily changes and arthritic pain have not stopped me from bringing the Holy Eucharist to the elderly, the sick and the lonely. My visits to hospitals and the homebound bring God's loving presence to those in need. I will be remembered as the short nun using a bright little three-wheeled walker who never stopped touching lives with her courage and commitment to the Lord, hopefully, showing love and compassion and always trying to be His faithful servant."

Sister entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in January of 1947 and professed her final vows in August of 1955. As an Atonement missionary, Sister served twenty-three years ministering to the People of God in Amsterdam, NY. Before returning to Graymoor in 2013, she ministered to the elderly, homebound and hospitalized in St. Mary's Parish, Amsterdam. She also ministered in catechetical, parish and pastoral ministries in Schenectady, Corinth, Canajoharie, Hogansburg, Rotterdam and Scotia, NY as well as other parishes throughout the United States.

Sister Margaret Mary died (at 86 years old) on Saturday, July 18, 2015 at North Westchester Restorative Therapy Center, Mohegan Lake, NY. Her Wake service and funeral Mass were celebrated at St. Francis Convent, Graymoor, Garrison, NY. She is buried in the Sisters' Cemetery at Graymoor.