



Sr. Rose Margaret Langdon

(Sister Mary Cyril)

BORN: November 1917

ENTERED CONGREGATION: September 2, 1937

DIED: October 19, 2010

Editor's note: *Sister Rose Margaret lived and ministered in Colorado for many years and asked to be buried there. Many family members are there also.*

Sister Marita Beumer, her councilor in the congregation, attended the funeral in Colorado on Oct. 25 and delivered the eulogy. The following day there was a Memorial Mass in Dayton, and the eulogy was shared with CPPS Sisters and other friends. The eulogy that follows is a compilation of both texts that were given.

IT is good to be gathered together today with Sister Rose Margaret's brother, George; his wife, Lucille; nieces, nephews; Sisters of the Precious Blood and friends... In the name of the congregation, I express my gratitude to Fran Langdon, Sister Rose Margaret's niece, who with Sister's brother George, and Sister Verlina [Mescher] have been angels of mercy to Sister Rose Margaret during these past years.

Rose Margaret was born in November 1917, the first child of James and Josephine (Baumgard) Langdon in Edgemont, South Dakota. Of her sister and five brothers, George is the only surviving member of the family. Eventually the family moved to Denver, where they attended Holy Family Parish, from which Rose Margaret entered religious life at the age of 20. In one of her writings, Sister Rose Margaret said that she owed her vocation to her parents, who with their love and kindness helped her decide to follow her vocation into religious life — even to travel to Dayton, Ohio.

Upon entering the novitiate she received the name Sister Mary Cyril, which she says was pronounced in different ways by the children (such

as "Sister Cereal"). She returned to her baptismal name, Rose Margaret, in the late 1960s.

For most of her life Sister Rose Margaret was a primary teacher, beginning in Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri. During this same time she received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Dayton. Later she moved to the Denver area and taught in Christ the King, Curé d'Ars and St. Bernadette schools.

As for teaching, one thing was sure: Sister Rose Margaret loved the first graders and they loved her. When she celebrated her 60 years as a Sister of the Precious Blood, her biography included quips about each of the places where these schools were located. Be assured that they were entertaining remarks made with her quick wit and humor.

In 1987, at the time of her 50th anniversary, Sister Rose Margaret wrote, "I loved the song, 'I Enjoy Being a Girl,' but now I can write that 'I Enjoy Being a Sister.'" During this special year in her life she was recounting her blessings of family, friends and the sisters.

Besides these blessings, she was proud of her accomplishment as a teacher and the awards that were bestowed on her: Teacher of the Year from the Archdiocese of Denver in 1962; Teacher of the Year from Christ the King School in 1972; Teacher of the Year and Americanism Award in 1976. (She was the first woman religious to receive the Americanism award from the American Legion.)

After teaching children, Sister Rose Margaret continued in the teaching field by tutoring both children and adults.

She loved her retirement years and said, "If I had known how fulfilling and relaxing it can be, I would have retired years ago." As a volunteer she continued teaching religious education, created arts and crafts and helped others do the same. The family says she also was a great support to her parents in their aging years.

Sister Rose Margaret loved her many years at Francis Heights, making friends and helping out wherever she could. Just as with the little children, her friendly spirit overflowed to all with whom she was in contact. Even today many of her "little children" remember her and are grateful for what she taught them and for who she was.

As her health diminished, she moved to Christopher House in 2008. Several times we thought that she might be "called home," but her strength held out until Tuesday, Oct. 19 — just a month before her 93rd birthday — when she peacefully, quietly left us, with Sister Verlina praying at her side.

Maybe Sister Rose Margaret's legacy rests in her motto: "Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow; don't walk behind me, I may not lead; walk beside me and be my friend."

Sister Rose Margaret, our friend with that smile and quick humor will be missed, but her heavenly intercession is with us.

Rose Margaret, thank you for your joy-filled spirit, your service to God's people, especially the children, and your 73 years in consecrated life. May you rest in peace.

—Sister Marita Beumer