



Sr. Margery Schroeder

BORN: June 1932

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 14, 1949

DIED: January 23, 2012

WE are here in this chapel to celebrate the life of Sister Margery Schroeder. In the early morning hours of January 23, Sister Margery went home to her loving God. We welcome Sister Margery's brothers and their wives, her brothers-in-law, her sister-in-law, her many nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews, extended family, and her many friends that are here with us today.

Sister Margery was born in June 1932 in Miller City, Ohio. She was the seventh child of nine children born to Samuel and Romana (Schmenck) Schroeder. Margery was baptized by her father on the very day of her birth because he feared that she might not live. As Margery put it "God claimed me (by baptism) shortly after birth." Margery did live through that day and lived more days. In 1935, the family moved to a farm near Columbus Grove, Ohio. The family belonged to St Anthony's Parish in Columbus Grove and Margery attended St Anthony's elementary school. Sister Margery wrote "Mother Magna must have sent her best teachers to Columbus Grove! Grade school went on 'without a hitch.' The days were happy and went by quickly."

Encouraged by her parents, Margery had a passion for music. Her mother had perfect ear pitch and was a gifted pianist, while her father played the violin. Like her siblings, who had musical ability both instrumental and voice, Sister Margery was also so gifted. She played the piano, organ, and had a lovely singing voice. During her childhood many evenings were filled by her family enjoying and making music.

During her eighth grade year, Margery felt she had an inclination toward religious life, so she entered the aspirancy of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Dayton, Ohio. At the age of 17, she became a Postulant and on August 15, 1950, Sister Margery entered the Novitiate and was given the religious name of Sister Mary Juleen. On August 15, 1952, Margery professed her vows and with

the education that she received she was ready to begin her ministry as a teacher.

Sister Margery's very first teaching assignment was not close to home, it was not even in Ohio. For the next three years Margery taught at Queen of Peace School in Mesa, Arizona. Margery described her and another Sister's journey to Mesa this way. "A bumpy two-day ride on the Southern Pacific train brought us to Phoenix at midnight. We stepped into the oven of the Arizona August heat! The next day I arrived by car at my new mission, Queen of Peace in the Mormon city of Mesa, with its many boulevards lined with artificial orange trees." Can you imagine what a change that would be for a young woman who was raised on a farm in Putnam County, Ohio? Nevertheless, Sister Margery learned a great deal in those years. She described her fifth-grade classroom as the "most lovable 10-year-old league of nations."

In the years that followed, Sister Margery returned only once to the West. She spent most of her years teaching in Catholic grade schools in Indiana and Ohio. She taught from 1955-1960 at Precious Blood School in Ft. Wayne, Indiana; and from 1968-1976 at St. Margaret Mary School in Cincinnati, Ohio. She also taught in the cities of Norwood, Ottawa, Versailles, Celina, and Dayton. She completed her course work for a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Dayton in 1964 and in 1972 she received a Masters of Arts Degree from Clark University, Dubuque, Iowa.

In 1977, Sister Margery began a new ministry; she became a student again in order to be a nurse. She left the classroom to care for the physical and spiritual needs of the elderly at St. Teresa Home for the Aged and later at St. Margaret Hall, both located in Cincinnati. For Margery these years were a time of spiritual growth; however, you could not keep Margery out of the classroom. She returned to teaching at St. Lawrence School in Cincinnati from 1983 to 1996. The following are quotes from her former students. "Sister Margery was nice and kind. She was my best teacher." Another said, "If it weren't for Sister

Margery, I would not be as smart as I am," and "Everybody who was taught by her really learned a lot."

Sister Margery retired from active ministry in 1997, however she never truly retired. She volunteered and helped whenever she could. Not only did Sister Margery take care of the physical needs of others she also met their spiritual needs. Margery was not shy in sharing her spirituality with others. She did not put her light under a bushel basket. She was proud of being a religious. To her, religious life meant "loving intimacy with the Eucharistic Lord." She went to daily Mass, she prayed the Liturgy of the Hours, did spiritual reading and made annual retreats. She was willing to share with anyone her most cherished beliefs.

None of us know why God gifts us in certain ways. Margery was born with wonderful musical ability, but she was also born with very poor eyesight. Over the years she had numerous eye surgeries and always needed corrective lenses; however, she never let her poor eyesight stop her from doing the things she needed to do. When Margery lived in Cincinnati she learned the public bus system and she took it everywhere. She rode the bus to church, to work, to the grocery, to visit friends; she even rode the bus to Dayton when she had to get to Salem. She did not give in, nor do I believe she felt sorry for herself because of her eyesight. She just got on with her life as God would want her to.

It is always hard to write a eulogy for someone you do not know well. But in these six months that Sister Margery and I had been in frequent contact with each other I have learned these things about her. I know that Sister Margery's faith in God was deep and unwavering. I know that she loved and was very proud of her family, and I know that she was a good friend because she has so many friends. I also know this, that Sister Margery, now in her eternal home, is using that beautiful voice of hers to sing the praises of her God as she looks upon His face with absolutely perfect vision.

— Sister Linda Pleiman