



Sister Margaret Zureick

BORN: February 1937

ENTERED CONGREGATION: January 14, 1956

DIED: December 1, 2022

Cincinnati's census grew by one in February 1937, as Richard and Grace (Merkt) Zureick welcomed their first child, Margaret, into their family. As young Margaret (Margie) was just about to turn four, the family grew once more with the addition of Richard. Nearly dying at birth, Richard gave the family quite a scare, but also won for him an earthly guardian angel: his big sister Margie, who "always looked out for him!"

The Catholic faith was very important to the Zureick family and very influential in Margie's life. She loved to go to church and was so inspired that she "made several small shrines" of her own on the hills behind her grandparents' house. Using Necco Wafers, she loved to play Mass. Of course, Margie "always wanted to be the priest."

Graduating from Mother of Sorrows School, one of the most "important decisions" of Margie's life was to attend Regina High School. It was at Regina at age 14 that she met the Sisters of the Precious Blood for the first time. Her high school years were very busy. Margie, a lifelong Cincinnati Reds fan, started playing softball at age 10. She had a mean "line drive" and was a very talented shortstop, not a position for the faint of heart. Her weekends were very busy, always starting with the Friday night Sorrowful Mother Novena, then football games, movies and dances.

During high school, Margie also worked at a small neighborhood grocery, where her world became bigger, and her eyes and her heart were opened wide. As Margie listened to customers' stories of life struggles, poverty, loneliness . . . her world and her vision of life became much broader, much more "authentic," and "God's call to religious life became louder!" Margie was pretty sure that,

if she entered religious life, she would "be a missionary sister, not a C.P.P.S." This obviously did not phase Sister Benedicta, who invited Margie in her senior year to visit Regina Heights. Besides enjoying the sense of humor that her tour guide, Mary Ann Mozser, possessed, the Motherhouse chapel took her breath away. She stated, "Jesus spoke in my heart, 'This is the place!'"

Soon after graduating from Regina in 1955, Margie entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood. In the fall of 1958, Margie made the long trip to Linton, North Dakota, where she began her journey as an elementary teacher. This journey took Margie from North Dakota to Troy, Ohio; Manteca, California; and Norwood, Ohio. In 1971, Sister Margie made the decision to leave the classroom and follow her heart to St. Paul's Parish in rural McKee, Kentucky. This began her service to God's people as a pastoral minister and social worker.

In 1974, the Congregation asked Margie to return to Dayton, where she served the Community as a member of the formation team. As novice director, Margie accompanied a number of women as novices. This past summer 2022, she very proudly had her picture taken standing in the middle of five Sisters who were blessed to call her their novice director. Truly a pleasure for all involved!

With a break in the novitiate ministry, Margie saw her opportunity to head south once again to her beloved hills of Kentucky. In the fall of 1982, she returned to parish outreach ministry in Berea, Kentucky, at Queen of All Saints Parish and in Beattyville, Kentucky, at St. Therese Parish. In 1988, Margie moved to Campton, Kentucky, to serve at Church of the Good Shepherd. In essence, her title should have been "Jack of all Trades," since she

served as administrator, pastoral associate, outreach minister, bookkeeper and thrift shop manager.

After 14 years in Campton, and recognizing that it was time to take a break, Margie made the decision to return to Dayton. In a heartwarming letter of gratitude to the people of Campton, she thanked them for accepting her into their lives and teaching her their ways.

Once back in Dayton, after taking a break to catch her breath, she found herself back at work, this time as the assistant manager at Twin Towers Food Mart, an arm of St. Mary Development Corp. While it was good to be on the East Side of Dayton, where a large part of the community had their roots in Eastern Kentucky, the work load proved beyond the scope of retirement. Margie found herself next on the West Side of Dayton, ministering to the women residing at Mercy Manor. Life was good, and Margie truly believed that she would be there until she retired. But sometimes God has other plans.

At the invitation of former pastor and good friend Father Wil Fraenzle, Margie found herself one more time serving God's people at St. Joseph the Worker in Elkhorn City, Kentucky. This is where Margie could be found until 2015 when she returned to Salem Heights in Dayton.

Regarding Elkhorn City, Margie wrote: "I found the people to be authentic, simple and faith-filled. . . The economic poverty was quite a contrast to the richness of the geographic beauty. What a privilege to walk again with genuine, deeply spiritual folks." Sister Margie, like the people she served, was authentic, lived simply, loved her God deeply and served God's people with gentle care.

— Sister Patty Kremer