



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Atlantic-Midwest Province

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sister Margaret Ann (Peggy) Smith, SSND
November 15, 1935 – September 19, 2018



Wilton, Connecticut - Sister Margaret Ann (Peggy) Smith, SSND, died on September 19, 2018 at Villa Notre Dame in Wilton, Connecticut. She was a vowed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 66 years. She ministered in New York, first as a teacher for more than a dozen years and then as a Registered Nurse in Brooklyn from 1970 to 2009.

Margaret Ann Smith was born to Patrick Joseph Smith and Mary Theresa McGuire on November 15, 1935, in Manhattan, New York. Her parents were from County

Longford, Ireland and Woodford, County Galway, respectively.

Margaret was baptized at St. Gregory Church, and entered Annunciation School in September 1940, where she was taught by the Religious of the Sacred Heart. First Holy Communion followed on March 25, 1941, and Confirmation by Bishop McIntyre in May 1945.

Peggy wrote in her autobiography that in fifth grade she was dressed in the habit of the RSCJ's, and "from that day to this, I have had the desire to enter the convent." So, after eighth grade graduation, she entered the SSND Aspiranture in Fort Lee, New Jersey, in September 1949, and graduated from high school there in 1953.

On August 28, Peggy received the Candidate's bonnet at Holy Angels chapel and spent her one-year Candidature at the Teachers Training School at the Aisquith Street Motherhouse in Baltimore. At Reception on July 12, 1953, she received the name Mary Humilita. After Novitiate, she made first Profession on July 30, 1955. Final vows

followed in Baltimore in 1961. She received a B.S. in Education from the College of Notre Dame in 1964. From 1956 to 1969, Humilita taught at schools in Baltimore; Rochester, NY; Lake Ronkonkoma, Long Island, NY; and Brooklyn.

In 1969, she began training as a Licensed Nurse at St. Joseph Nursing School and worked at Sloan Kettering in New York. Later, at St. Vincent School of Nursing, she became a Registered Nurse in 1974 and served at Veterans Hospital, Mercy Health Care Center, and Methodist Hospital, all in Brooklyn. For several of these years she also cared for her mother while continuing to work as a nurse. From 1989 to 1993, Margaret was an RN at Winston Medical Temporaries in New York, and then Health Care Coordinator/RN at Federal Occupational Health Services.

At her retirement in 2008, Peggy gave community service, as well as serving as a library aide in St. Anselm School. She came to Villa Notre Dame in 2011, feeling very much the effects of rheumatoid arthritis and often longing for the Lord to take her. She prayed three decades of the Rosary every day. Peggy was something of a well-loved “curmudgeon,” with a quick temper and a strong Irish sense of humor.

A community Mass was celebrated at Villa Notre Dame on Monday, September 24, with the readings of the day and the hymns she had chosen: “The Lord is My Shepherd,” “Gentle Woman,” “Gift of Finest Wheat,” and “Holy God.” Peggy’s sister, niece and a cousin were present. Sister Maria Iannucillo gave this final blessing. At supper that evening, Peggy’s final directive was carried out: “The sisters are to be wined and dined, fluffed and stuffed.” In a peaceful, happy spirit, they enjoyed the treat and a table laden with delicious pastries.

Peggy’s cremains will be buried in the SSND section of St. Mary Cemetery, Bethel, Connecticut, at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic Midwest Province, c/o Development Office, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Conn. 06897 or online: www.amssnd.org



Wilton, Conn. – Sister Catherine Goodell, 99, died early in the morning on July 11, comforted by loving sisters and staff. She was a vowed member of the School sisters of Notre Dame for 79 years.

Catherine was born on January 30, 1919, in Roxbury, Mass., and baptized on February 23, in St. Benedict Church in Somerville.

Catherine attended Wilson Public School in Detroit and then St. Gabriel’s Catholic School, where at the age of seven she received First Communion, with Confirmation following a few weeks later. Dominican Sisters were her teachers there. When she was a fourth grader, the family moved to Chicago, and a year later she enrolled in St. Cyril’s School and met the Sisters of Loretto. “It was here, in the sixth grade, that I first thought I would like to be a sister.”

Catherine graduated from Mission Grammar and Mission High Schools in 1932 and 1936. She chose the Commercial Course in high school “thinking perhaps I would go to work when I left school and also trying to convince myself that I really did not want to be a sister.” At the usual private interview with Principal Sister Cataldus, Catherine was in a dilemma, knowing one of the questions would be on her plans for the future. She first explained the need to go to work because of the Depression, but really knowing it was a “yes” to being a sister. In two weeks she returned to Sister Cataldus with her answer and her mother’s consent.

On August 28, 1936, Catherine received the bonnet with two companions in the high school convent chapel, and the next morning journeyed to the Motherhouse on Aisquith Street in Baltimore. For two years she lived there as a candidate “trying to observe faithfully our rules, but there have been times, sorry to say, when I could have done better.” She also wrote with gratitude,

It is impossible to even try to thank everybody for the many, many kindnesses and especially for the guidance of experienced hands. Sister Myles and Sister Fermina will ever have a place in my prayers that God may spare them long in his service. Likewise the House Sisters who work unceasingly for all.

On entering the novitiate, Catherine became Sister Mary Ursuline and made first profession on July 27, 1939. Saint Boniface, Philadelphia was her first mission, where she taught 75 fourth graders until 1944, when she went to St. Lawrence, Sayville, N.Y. for five more years. In 1945 she made final profession.

From 1949 to 1961, Sister Ursuline was in the heart of “Baptist Country” at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, a de-activated Army base, a new mission of the Baltimore province co-founded by Sisters Rosemary Delaney, Francis Mensik, and Ursuline. Catherine taught triple grades six, seven and eight, as well as being principal and superior. Her smile and loving disposition won the hearts of the people. Some left their Baptist Church and founded their own church, so they could send their children to Catholic school.

Catherine spent the years 1961 to 1978 teaching mainly business subjects at St. Michael Commercial High and Archbishop Keough High School in Baltimore, Bishop Neumann Business School in Philadelphia, and St. Peter High in Cambridge, Mass.

After 30 years there at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Dover, N.H. as teacher and assistant librarian, in 2008, Catherine received the *Lux in Tenebris Award*, which recognizes members of the St. Thomas community who live their lives as examples of what it means to be a light in darkness. It was the 70th year of her profession.

Many family members attended the wake service on the evening of July 13. Present also were Charlie George and former Principal Jeffrey Quinn from Dover. Both spoke fondly of Catherine. Current Principal Kevin Collins was represented by his wife Kate. The Liturgy of Christian Burial on July 14 was presided over by Father Paul Sankar from the local parish. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery, Bethel, Conn.

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