



In Loving Memory

Sister Imelda Marie Mulloy

Sister Imelda Marie Mulloy was born Margaret Mary on September 13, 1936, in Mercy Hospital, Gary, Indiana. Born to Patrick and Margaret Mulloy, she was the seventh of eight children. She wrote in her autobiography, “Even though my brothers were hoping for a boy, they made me feel quite welcome at once. About another week after this, I was taken to St. Luke’s Church to receive the waters of baptism, and was then given the name Margaret Mary, though I was always called Peggy.”

Proud of her Irish heritage she included in her short autobiography, “Both of my parents came from County Mayo, Ireland when they were in their early twenties. They had not known each other in Ireland, though my mother’s family name was Molloy and my father’s Mulloy. They met in Gary, got married and decided to raise a good Catholic, Irish family. They did pretty well with six boys and two girls. My mother always said, though, that she had only one girl and seven boys because I acted more like a boy than a girl.”

Raised in Gary, Indiana, Sister Imelda attended St. Luke’s for all of her elementary schooling and Emerson High School. She wrote of her experiences in school saying, “I started school at St. Luke’s and was taught by the good Notre Dame sisters. I was never very interested in school, but I loved the sisters from the very beginning as did the rest of my family.” As a student, Sister Imelda did not think much of school, writing, “I would much rather be out playing football or baseball with the boys than doing homework, so you can see that I managed to get myself into plenty of trouble.”

As a child she recalled World War II writing, “Three of my brothers went to fight for our country. My oldest brother, Pat, was seriously wounded and came back home paralyzed on his left side. Shortly after Pat was hit we received news that my brother, Marty, was killed in action. As broken hearted as they were, my parents’ response was, ‘God’s will be done.’ To them these weren’t only words to be said with the lips, but were lived day by day.”

Sister Imelda spent years contemplating joining the School Sisters of Notre Dame, “The candidature felt like home from the very beginning and I loved it. The year went by very quickly and soon it was time to prepare for Reception and that day came on June 27, 1955. I received the name Sister Imelda Marie.” Shortly after, she received a B.A. from Mount Mary University and then an M.A. from Clarke College.

A lifelong educator, she served in schools for more than 50 years. Sister Imelda began teaching in 1957, at St. Margaret of Scotland School in Chicago, Illinois. She served as teacher and principal of elementary grades in Wisconsin, at St. Anthony, St. Nicholas, St. Robert Convent and St. Mary Czestochowa all in Milwaukee. In 2002, she began ministry through

Birth
September 13, 1936

Baptism
October 4, 1936

Profession
July 10, 1956

Death
May 3, 2017

Burial
Notre Dame of Elm Grove
Cemetery
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

continued

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tutoring at St. Bernard School in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Even in retirement she continued to serve through part-time tutoring and prayer and presence.

Sister Imelda loved being a teacher, and especially a teacher of little ones. The years were joyful and also challenging. She concluded her autobiography with the sentence, “I was so grateful to the good Lord for all the years He allowed me to be in the classroom.”

Sister Imelda Marie was featured in the “School Sister” publication in 1981, in an article titled, *Little People Builder*. The article highlights the skills and passion Sister Imelda Marie, also known to her students as Sister Honeybunch, brought to her classroom. The authors of the article noted, “Along with the skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic, Sister teaches the values of Christian living. Key among them is an attitude of respect – respect for God, oneself, others and things.”

Little People Builder also gave a glimpse into her first and second grade classroom, “Sister’s classroom reflects her respect for and delight in life. Violets, shamrocks, philodendrons, and even two pineapple plants adorn the window sills. A homemade incubator containing chicken eggs houses the mysteries of life for all to see.”

Sister Mary Jacqueline Buckley noted her Sister Imelda’s Eulogy that the readings Imelda Marie chose for her Resurrection liturgy reveal her simple, direct, deep and profound spiritual life.

God indeed is my savior: I am confident and unafraid. (Is 12:2a)

Throughout our lives, we strive to do whatever [God] tells us... (YAS 47:1)

...because what you have hidden from the learned and the clever you have revealed to the merest children. Yes, Father, you have graciously willed it so. (Lk 10:21b)

Sister Imelda Marie was born to eternal life on May 3, 2017, age 80. She is survived by her brothers Joseph and Gerald, nieces, nephews, dear friends and the SSND community. Preceding her in death were her parents, her brothers Patrick, James, Thomas, Martin and her sister Sheila Lahaie.

This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information and the eulogy written by Sister Mary Jacqueline Buckley, SSND

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of Notre Dame**
Central Pacific Province

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THROUGH EDUCATION