

Remembering



Sister Mary Martin McCullough, CSJ

December 13, 1919—October 8, 2016

Sister Mary Martin McCullough, before she entered religious life was known as Elinor Louise. Like both of her parents, William John and Susan Mary Hanarty, Sister was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Elinor Louise was born on December 13, 1919, the second of four children. After her father died, her mother moved with the four children to California to be near other members of the family. Sister's sister, Susanna Patterson, and brothers John and James are deceased. Two Sisters of St. Joseph, Sister Edna Mary Leonard and Sister Genevieve Agnes Leonard were cousins and are also deceased. Sister liked to call Sister Regina McLaughlin her "cousin", but they are not related, except by marriage. Sister Mary Martin was 97 years old when she died on Oct. 8, 2016.

While in Philadelphia, Sister attended St. Clement School from 1925 – 1931. After moving to Los

Angeles in the seventh grade, she attended St. John the Evangelist in Hyde Part from 1931 – 1933, and then graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1937. Sister fondly remembered Sister Mary Adrienne Kennedy and Father Thomas McNichols. At one time Sister wrote, "I was Sister Adrienne's first postulant." Sister Mary Martin noticed the CSJ Charism embraced and lived out "in the loving care and sacrifices of our Sisters with students."

Sister Mary Martin entered in Los Angeles on September 18, 1937. She received the habit on March 19, 1938, made her first profession of vows on March 19, 1940. She pronounced final vows on August 15, 1943. Sister's 75th Jubilee was celebrated in 2013.

Mary Martin served as a teacher for almost 40 years and as Principal and teacher for 10 of these years. After an illness took her from the classroom, the story is told

she prayed to Sister Francis Mary for guidance in seeking a new ministry. The answer to her prayer was to join Sister Anita Joseph in the finance office at Carondelet Center and to pay over 1,000,000 bills over the years. Sister worked as finance officer for 32 years at Carondelet Center, from 1970 – 2002. In 2003 Sister retired, long beyond the normal age of retirement. She put away her many treasured small gadgets and gifts she had accumulated and joined the Holy Family Community. Sister Pat Rosholt remarked that Sister Mary Martin may be the record holder for continuously living at Carondelet Center/House of Studies. Sister lived at Carondelet Center for 45 years, from 1971 – 2016.

Special memories for Sister Mary Martin included "eighth grade graduations" and "opening two new schools as Principal." In 2008 Sister wrote about an early mission experience. It can serve as a reminder of her sense of humor. "My first mission was the Business Office at St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson. Part of my job was going to the rooms of the patients to collect payment of the bills. I hated doing this so I spent most of the time watching the new babies through the nursery window."

No doubt Sister Mary Martin's goodness left its mark on her students, coworkers, and those who have lived with her. Her clever mind set high standards for herself and others. She has been described as happy, naturally friendly, congenial, and sweet. Her eyes sparkled with good-humored intelligence. While quiet and shy, she was an extremely helpful,

pleasant, and gracious lady. In her gentle way she helped many Sisters who needed answers for financial questions. She was a faithful friend and a conscientious worker in the finance office. Even when her eyesight began to fail, she still wanted to do all that she could in the office and for others. Hers was a sunny generous disposition. While responsible for Accounts Payable and Budgets, she would be seen taking time for a daily walk through Carondelet Center with Sister Anita Joseph, a friend and coworker. Sister Irma Tye recalled how patient and helpful Sister was as Irma began working in the finance office. For her 70th Jubilee in 2008 Sister Mary Martin wrote: "Jubilee is a culmination of many happy years as a Sister of St. Joseph."

In 2000 Sister was given a Provincial Award, signed by Sister Joyce Marie Gaspardo, Sister Maureen O'Connor and Sister Cecilia Louise. In part the resolution read:

Whereas neither cancer nor heart problems nor normal retirement age has kept Sister from her dedication to her work.

Be it resolved that Sister Mary Martin be recognized for her years of faithful service in the Finance Office.

Be it resolved that the Sisters of St. Joseph express their love, gratitude and appreciation for her many years of generous service.

Sister Mary Martin, we do thank you for your service and generosity.

May you now bask in the light and joy of our loving God with many of your family members as your companions. Your gentle and gracious imprint will be left in the hearts and lives of many. ❧

Written by Sister Frances Baker, CSJ



Gentle woman,
Quiet light
Teach us wisdom,
Teach us love.

~ Lyrics by Carey Landry