



**Sister Margaret Leonard Perreira**

**November 4, 1938 ~ December 6, 2034**

Madeline Mary was born in Ewa, Oahu, Honolulu, the second of three children; Margaret, Madeline, and Leonard. Her father, Jules, was employed at Ewa Plantation Company as an Electrical Engineer for 40 years. He took a second part-time job as an auto mechanic in order to provide a Catholic education for the three children. Her mother, Margaret Moniz, was a homemaker, who volunteered many hours for the parish, and babysat children from the Naval base, to assist with financing a Catholic education.

It is easy to see where Madeline learned the value of hard work, volunteering, and the importance of a Catholic education. For twelve years she attended Sacred Hearts Academy and graduated in 1957. Although she was accepted for college at Loretta Heights College in Denver, the University of Hawaii, and Chaminade College, she choose to attend Chaminade in Honolulu. This was the first year it became a four-year college for both men and women.

Madeline was active in parish organizations, the sodality, the choir, and aided the Sisters of St. Joseph when they taught religion in the parish on Sundays. "I attribute my vocation to the CSJ's with the impression that these sisters made upon me during my elementary/high school years". As a freshman at Chaminade College she met several sisters who attended enrichment classes. She once wrote, "I noticed the difference in the CSJ's cordial, warm and genuine interest in their dealings with people in general."

The attraction to religious life grew stronger. On September 15, 1958 she entered in Los Angeles from Hawaii. Madeline completed her formation in Los Angeles,

but belonged to the Hawaiian Vice-province. Hawaii was made a Vice-province in 1955.

She received the habit on March 19, 1959, made first vows on March 20, 1963. After finishing the Juniorate she received her Bachelor's Degree from Mount St. Mary's College, and received her California Teachers License. From 1962 to 1966 she taught in California. Sister returned to Hawaii with five other island girls who entered in 1958. The six young women pronounced final vows on August 6, 1966. In 2019, Sister Margaret Leonard celebrated her 60th Jubilee as a woman religious.

In 1989 Sister was awarded her Master's Degree in School Administration from University of San Francisco. Her ministry in Hawaii, as teacher and administrator was insightful and effective. "My goal was to prepare students for adulthood with an emphasis on integrity, morality and discipleship." Sister was also called to CSJ community service as vice-province treasurer for 10 years, then served on the vice-province leadership team, and later as caregiver for parents and assistant archivist for community.

While active in school administration, Sister served on the WASC Accreditation school evaluation team for 12 years, the National Association of Year Round Education assisting with implementation for 10 years.

She wrote, "With a grateful heart and joyful spirit, I spent nearly 50 years ministering in elementary schools in Hawaii as teacher, administrator and computer instructor. Ministering to all without distinction – students, parents, coworkers and parishioners, through love and service in word and deed – has been a great source of joy and blessing. I am truly grateful to God, my parents, teachers, Sisters and Fathers of the Sacred Hearts, and my CSJ community for their love, guidance and inspiration."

Sisters who lived and ministered with her had fond memories. They praised her multiple talents, and especially her spirituality. It was said she had a knack for finances and her reports were always colorful and understandable. Presentation was important to her, whether it was developing a report, wrapping a gift, or serving a plate of food. Margaret always had a spiritual book on hand, and was willing to share thoughts from it. She had a gift for writing wonderful prayer

services for many occasions. She generously shared this gift of hers. She was always willing to help others in any way she could.

Her life of service seemed to follow a gentle rhythm, like the ocean waves, demonstrating an enduring love of God and neighbor. She found God to be a life-giving presence enriching her inner life, even as she suffered from spinal problems. When Margaret came to Holy Family Community on August 15, 2019, she brought quiet joy and peace and immediately set out to interact with as many sisters as possible. Self-contained and single minded, she carefully weighted her words and thoughts, was exquisitely gentle in her relationships. On September 15, 2022 Sister transferred to St. John of God Center, with the hope of rehabilitation for her spine. This did not come about, Sister's disappointment was crushing, yet she daily sought to live with grace and interest in community affairs.

Sister Margaret Leonard provided wise counsel and generous service in her various ministries. She found ways to use her strength and intelligence wisely and justly. Her influential presence and quiet humor were a gift to community, she will be greatly missed for her greatness of spirit and friendly welcome to all.

~ *Sister Frances Baker, CSJ*