

## Obituary



Sister Marie Hopkins, IHM, 96, died Sunday, Oct. 25, at her home, IHM Senior Living Community in Monroe.

Sister Marie was one of four daughters born to Raymond and Nora (Murphy) Hopkins. Marie was born on Aug. 21, 1924 in Flint, Mich. The family attended St. Michael Church and Marie attended St. Michael Elementary and High Schools. After graduation in 1942, she entered the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe, and received the religious name Sister Raynora.

Sister Marie earned a bachelor's degree from Marygrove College and both a master's degree and Doctor of Education from Wayne State University, Detroit. Her early teaching ministry included St. Mary, Monroe; St. Hugo, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; Gesu, Detroit; and St. Felicitas, Chicago, Ill.

It was in 1958 when Sister Marie was missioned to Marygrove College that her career flourished, and she excelled in what became a life-long joy and love of the teaching ministry. She began by teaching kindergarten, psychology and child development and study, and was enriched by her own studies in higher education. She spent considerable time focused on teacher-training and the development of teachers, especially with young students. In 37 years of service to the college, Sister Marie served as faculty, associate and full professor of Education and Early Childhood Education, Department of Education Chairperson, director of Marygrove Preschool and dean. She was a published author in the National Catholic Kindergarten Review. She remained a supporter and friend to many of her students as they embarked on their careers.

After retiring from the college in 1995, she continued with research in child education for the next nine years while residing at Marygrove Convent and in Westland, Mich. Sister Marie was a dedicated community member and renewed many friendships when she retired to the IHM Motherhouse in 2004. She volunteered in the Archives Office, as Eucharistic minister and other areas. With her outgoing personality, she became acquainted with, and a favorite of, many staff people in the congregational departments on campus.

## Remembering

*"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."*

-Pericles

We remember and celebrate the life of Sister Marie Hopkins, IHM. How do we describe Marie?

A loyal friend, a loving person  
generous, a good sense of humor, very intelligent  
extremely independent  
a woman of deep faith and prayer

Marie had many friends and gave them her love and loyalty throughout the years.

Marie's parents, Raymond Joseph and Nora Margaret (Murphy), were born in Ontario, Canada. They immigrated to Flint, Mich. for employment opportunities.

Marie was born on Aug. 21, 1924. She was a four and one-half pound infant, the first born. Her sisters Fausteen, LaVonne and Raylene followed. Several nieces and nephews completed her family. Marie had a great love for her relatives.

As a child, she was very active and loved sports. The Mott Foundation had an established sports and recreation program in Flint. She was an active participant, winning a badminton contest, although baseball was her favorite sport, where she played the positions of catcher and center fielder.

She attended St. Michael schools for 12 years. The influence of the IHM Sisters planted the seeds of her vocation. Marie had two visits to the IHM Motherhouse before her entry. As an eighth-grade student, she accompanied her father, who drove sisters and prospective postulants to Monroe. Sister Mary Hubert tried to talk to Marie, but Marie told Sister she did not want any discussion because she was going to join the Dominicans.

Two weeks after high school, graduation Marie entered the postulate. Her family drove her to Monroe. At two blocks away from the Motherhouse, Marie made her father stop the car. She stepped out of the car and told her family "I do not

want anyone with me." With her suitcase, she walked to the Motherhouse alone. She suffered from loneliness in the postulate and novitiate. Marie confided that loneliness has always been a suffering throughout her life. Much loneliness was experienced each time she had a change of mission assignment.

As a novice, Sister Raynora, was assigned to teach at St. Mary, Monroe, for four months followed by St. Hugo, Bloomfield Hills, for six and one-half years. Her assignment there was morning kindergarten and the afternoon of grades five and six, split with 60 students. She taught kindergarten at Gesu School (Detroit) for two years, and at St. Felicitas (Chicago) for five years.

At the request of Sister Mary McGrath, Marie was assigned to Marygrove College. Sister Mary became a loving friend and mentor. She even shared with Marie her most precious possession in the world, Tobias "Toby," a beautiful black Labrador Retriever. It was love at first sight. At Sister Mary's passing "Aunt Marie" became Toby's new loving owner.

Being at Marygrove were exciting and challenging years for her. She especially enjoyed teaching in the Preschool Lab used for child development majors. Educational advancement continued with Marie earning a doctorate from Wayne State University. After Marie was awarded full professorship at Marygrove, she became chair of the Education department and headed the graduate program.

As an educator at the college level, she motivated her students to achieve their very best. She set high standards for the courses she taught. Her creativity and excellence were evident in the courses she taught, constantly updating with new insights and ideas. In her early childhood courses, she emphasized the importance of play in the lives of children. Her quote was "Play is the work of a child." Her focus was on the importance of free play in the development of social skills, intellect and creativity. How important is this concept in society today, with the emphasis on organized, competitive sports, along with the amount of time children spend engaged with technology? Her ministry in education at Marygrove College extended for 35 years. Many Marygrove graduates became outstanding teachers because of Marie's influence.

Sister Marie had great travel experiences. She spent eight weeks in Europe visiting and studying early childhood educational centers as part of the

Marygrove College Dad's Club Faculty Enrichment Program. As a board member of the National Association of the Education of Young Children, she gave presentations throughout the United States.

Her travel blessing was a pilgrimage to the Holy Land under the direction of Bishop Ken Untener. She shared this experience with her guest and travel companion Sister Audrey Cousino.

After retiring from Marygrove College, Marie taught courses for Eastern Michigan and Madonna Universities. As part of her work assignment for Madonna, Marie taught a child development course in Taiwan.

After a diagnosis of breast cancer, and the following required surgery, Marie moved to the Motherhouse and celebrated her 80th birthday in Monroe. She had fond memories of her 89th birthday celebration. Four of her former students who had all taught at Our Lady Star of the Sea, fondly called the "Star Group," arrived in a fully decorated birthday mobile and entertained her with lottery tickets, a picnic breakfast, a shopping spree at the dollar store, lunch at Wendy's, dessert at Independent Dairy and concluded with a stop at a salon for her very first manicure. Marie's reaction was "NEVER AGAIN!"

Marie's first years of living at the Motherhouse were active. She was a Eucharistic minister, a driver, a member of various committees and worked in the IHM Archives. Marie was always thinking of the needs of others in her surroundings. Many trips were made to Meijer to purchase candy and other treats to cheer up the other sisters, especially those in health care.

As time passed, she accepted the challenges of poor vision and hearing loss without complaint. She was creative in her organizational ideas to remain visually independent. During her years in health care, she often expressed her gratitude for the wonderful, loving care given to her from the staff.

Marie was a woman of deep faith and prayer. She followed IHM traditions of daily meditation, rosary, divine office and liturgy. She had a deep love of her parents, her deceased sisters and expressed, so often, how she looked forward to being reunited with them in heaven.

Go forth, Marie, to a wonderful reunion with your family and friends in eternity! Thank you, Marie, for teaching us so much by your example of prayer, outreach

to others and a faith-filled acceptance of the health challenges you endured without complaint.

"For those who instruct others unto justice will shine like stars forever." (Daniel 12)

Shine on, Marie, in eternal peace and joy!

Written and delivered by Sharon Carolin, IHM Associate  
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