

SISTER MARY HYACINTHE RUGGIERO

**of the Blessed Sacrament
October 25, 1909 – August 28, 2011**

*Today charts paths that make history and shapes destinies world round.
Remember, every moment is most important, so profound.
God's gift of Today do enjoy.*

--Sister Mary Hyacinthe

Sister Mary Hyacinthe Ruggiero was born on October 25, 1909 in San Francisco, California, to Peter and Elsie Ruggiero and baptized three days later on October 28 at the Italian Church of Saints Peter and Paul. Her family was to include two brothers, John Anthony and Edgar Florindo and two sisters, Grace and Elvera. Sister's early education took place at Jean Parker, an all girls school, followed by Galileo and Commercial High Schools, all in San Francisco. She later attended Heald's Business College, earning a certificate of Proficiency and Diploma in Art.

After working a number of years as a business secretary for Firemans Fund Insurance Company in the City, Sister entered the Dominican Sisters Monastery, Menlo Park and two years later in 1947 transferred to the Dominican Sisters at Mission San Jose, expressing a desire to work with children, especially the poor.

Sister's active ministry with us was gracious service as a school secretary and receptionist. Her ministry brought her to Saint Mary of the Palms School, Fremont; Saint Dominic's Priory and Marycrest High School, Portland, Oregon; Saint Joseph and Saint Anne Schools and Saint Therese School also in Portland; Saint Catherine Military Academy, Anaheim; and Immaculate Conception Academy, San Francisco.

In addition to her work in education, Sister Mary Hyacinthe's interests included a wide spectrum – computers, embroidery, sewing, painting, swimming, tennis, horseback riding, poetry, sports and civic events – most of which she maintained well into her retirement. After her retirement in 1985 Sister continued community service in San Francisco until 2007 when she arrived in Saint Martin's community at the Motherhouse, remaining still very active until a few weeks before her death on August 28, 2011. Sister Ellen Mary Cunningham was present when Sister died at 8:10 p.m. Sister had received the Anointing of the Sick on August 17, the feast of Saint Hyacinth, at her request and comfort care from Saint Martin's staff and loving visits from her Sisters. At October 25, her birthday, she would have been 102 years old.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Reverend Carl Seewald, S.V.D., Motherhouse chaplain, on Saturday, September 3, at 11:00 a.m. in the Dominican Sisters Chapel followed immediately by burial in God's Acre and a festive meal for her relatives, Dominican Sisters and members of On Lok/Lifeways staff who attended the event.

May she rest in peace.

---Sister Mary Paul Mehegan, O.P.

