

Sister Angela Mary Molahan Of the Holy Cross



September 11, 1916 – December 2, 2009

Biographical Sketch

“Ireland’s gift to our Congregation” Angela Mary Molahan was born to Ellen Donohoe Molahan and Michael Molahan in the small village of Mohill, County Leitrim, Ireland on September 11, 1916. Three days later she was baptized Angela Mary at St. Patrick’s Church. She took the name Theresa at Confirmation. Angela grew up in a close knit, hard working family steeped in the lived faith of her devoted parents and enriched by the love of her brothers John and Joseph and her sisters Bridie, Eileen and Margaret. Angela received her First Holy Communion at St. Patrick’s Church. Daily the Molahan family gathered to pray the rosary and from this practice Angela said later: “This Catholic practice was the greatest influence on my vocation.”

This Faith Angela would later pass on to all the children she taught over a span of 40 years in her Dominican ministry. Even afterward Sister would continue in her retirement years by her daily praying the rosary in front of the statue of the Blessed Mother in the hallway outside her bedroom at Saint Martin’s. And with the help of our Services Staff she made sure that there was always a flower near this statue.

Angela received her elementary education from the Sisters of Mercy. Angela’s family, because of their experience of war and poverty in Ireland, immigrated to the United States where they settled in Portland, Oregon. It was there that she first came in contact with our Sisters when she attended Immaculata Academy. She became good friends of Sisters Emilia, Mary Joan, Martina and Mary Charles. Following her high school graduation she entered our Congregation in 1936. On May 28, 1937 Angela entered our novitiate as Sister Eileen of the Holy Cross and made first profession the following year on August 30.

Sister Eileen received her B.A. from Queen of the Holy Rosary College and continued her preparation as a teacher at Marylhurst College in Portland. Her teaching ministry would take her to many happy years both in California and Oregon including the Immaculate Heart and Holy Rosary, Portland; School of the Madeleine, Berkeley; principal at Flintridge's elementary school and at Saint Joseph and Saint Anne schools in Portland. After three years at St. William School, Los Altos and two more at Saint Michael School, Los Angeles, Sister Angela returned to her beloved Portland for eleven years as teacher and later in parish ministry. After one year in parish ministry at Saint Callistus, Garden Grove, Sister's final 16 years of active ministry brought her back to Portland as parish minister. Sister later reflected, "My greatest joy was to visit the poor," although she also reminisced: "How I loved the children I taught." Her sisters as well considered Sister Angela an excellent teacher.

Sister Angela was quiet, especially after she lost her hearing. She was a good cook, had a sense of humor and enjoyed the little things of life...receiving a cup of tea...a piece of chocolate...a biscuit. Her immediate responses to receiving anything were "Thank you... Thanks... God bless you... God loves you... God Alone." Sister was assigned to Saint Martin's in 2003 where she received the care that was so evidently needed. There she endeared herself to the staff and was grateful for the care she received. She knew her aging, her physical diminishment and was very clear in making her health care decisions. She did not want to be hospitalized...she did not want a lot of tests...she wanted to be comfortable and free of pain. She would say: "It is old age I have." Recently Sister told her doctor that some day when he reached the 90's, he would understand. She said she knew the Lord was near...calling her. On the evening of December 3 2009 Sister had a heart attack. Quietly and peacefully she passed away at 10:30 p.m. surrounded by Sisters Gloria Marie Jones, Jennifer Daniels, Mary Jarlath McGrath, St. Martin's staff and Father Jeff Finley, C.P.P.S., who led the prayers for the dying.

The Mass for Christian Burial was offered on the following Monday by Father Finley, Motherhouse chaplain and Sister's body was brought to God's Acre at the Motherhouse on Tuesday morning, December 3, 2009.

May our dear Sister Angela rest in everlasting peace!