



Sister Marie King

Entered eternal life on February 7, 2016

In a few minutes we'll be singing "Songs of the Angels" - a song Sister Marie heard and answered last Sunday evening - returning to her God after spending almost 94 years here in New Jersey, in varied places, starting in Newark and ending here in Convent Station. Marie came from a large and loving family who loved and supported her over the years. Her sister Dolores and her brother Joe and several other family members are here with us tonight.

When we read that she entered in 1940, we realize that she spent 75 years as a Sister of Charity, dedicated to living out the mission of Charity in her everyday life. This anniversary of hers we just celebrated in June.

As with many of us, Marie began her ministry in the field of education, serving in several schools - helping children gain knowledge and grow in Christian values. This is where her music ministry began.

But from 1968 - 2007 she shared her musical talents more fully as a music teacher, choir director and organist. She prepared for this through study at Manhattanville and Montclair State. For 47 years she brought the richness of music to others, both children and adults. Her musical ability helped enrich liturgical worship in Saint Mary's parish, Nutley, and later in Immaculate Conception Church in North Newark. But her contributions were even wider. She participated in ecumenical events in Nutley. At a Thanksgiving eve prayer in the Methodist Church she led the combined choirs of Grace Church, Trinity Lutheran, Temple B'Nai Israel, St. Mary's and Vincent Methodist Church. Her choir was congratulated for the music they provided for some Sunday TV Masses.

When the convent at Saint Mary's, Nutley, closed, Marie moved to the convent at Holy Family, Nutley, where she lived with the Filippini Sisters. This allowed her to continue her service to St. Mary's parish. Even this year she received in the mail a membership card for St. Mary's Rosary Society - and members of the Rosary Society came to her wake service. From 1998 - 2007 Marie served as organist in Immaculate Conception, North Newark, and lived with Sisters of Charity again.

In 2009, Marie moved to Saint Anne Villa from Mother Seton, Clark. Here, too, she contributed to the music ministry by playing the organ and then continued as a choir member.

In Marie's name, I thank all who cared for her needs here so faithfully and her family who surrounded her with love.

As we think back over the role of music in Marie's life, these words of Psalm 149 seem appropriate: "Sing to the Lord a new song of praise in the assembly of the faithful . . . Let them praise God's name in the festive dance, let them sing praise to God with timbrel and harp." This Marie did – and I'm sure continues to do in her new life.

Sister Edna Francis Hersinger