



## **Sister Maureen Crowley**

Entered eternal life on March 31, 2018

How do you even try to capture 79 years, 61 as a Sister of Charity, in a few minutes?

I think of a reflection such as this, as a photograph, it's impossible to get the breadth and depth and yet a picture emerges.

Sister Maureen entered the Sister of Charity from Montclair in 1957, soon to become Sister Maureen William, as well as a lifelong member of the band of '57 (she didn't play an instrument or sing that's just a term that the SC's use in referring to our entrance group).

Those of us who knew her, know the most prominent golden threads that intertwined throughout her life.

**Family:** Her family was such an influence on her life from her parents Marion and Bill imbedding in her the Catholic Faith and the love and knowledge about her Irish heritage. She too could say "I remember Mama", as her grandmother wouldn't die until she had brought Maureen to Ireland. Her sister, and best friend, Peggy and a vast number of aunts, uncles and cousins also influenced her life. One of Maureen's goals was to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at home, which she did with her honored guests, our General Superior Sister Rosemary Moynihan and Maureen's friend and colleague, Sister Barbara Conroy and her other family the Sudias.

**Montclair:** She saw as synonymous with Immaculate Conception parish, elementary and high school (the first thing I had to do when I lived with her at Our Lady Help of Christians, East Orange was learn "Immaculata, We are Proud of You"). You may be interested to know that she was baptized right at this baptismal font and received all her sacraments in this very church. It was certainly a circle of love.

She would have been so honored to have Monsignor Shugrue, a long-time friend and colleague celebrate this Mass and all of the concelebrants.

### **Another golden thread - Catholic Education:**

She was well known for her love of teaching in both the classroom and as an administrator. Preparing and planning were integral to her life, even to the planning of this Mass and her obituary. Her directives were explicit right down to the bagpipes! Her influence on the students that she taught and prayed for will long exceed her life among us. She wasn't a person of many words (her mother used to say "that one – she always has her head in a book"), but she was a great listener and counselor.

Her avocations were reading and all things sports, from the Immaculate Lions to Notre Dame football and anything else that bounced on a court, field or golf course.

Her love and pride in the Sisters of Charity go beyond words as does her devotion to Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, whose relic she generously offered to anyone in need, but made sure she got it back.

May I take the opportunity on her behalf to thank in a special way all those who cared for her in her last days. Her cousins Patti Toris and Bobby Bainbridge, her *angel* caretaker, Athina, Marianne Holler and Pat Nash, both former students, and Joan Ferraer and I, her long and faithful friends. All of us made it possible for her to die at home with great dignity, painlessly and peacefully. It was Good Friday when she left us. For her a very Good Friday as she entered eternal life in this beautiful season of the Resurrection.

I began with a photograph analogy and return to it now. Each of you has your own picture of life with Sister Maureen in your mind and your heart. Please treasure the pictures which mean the most to you and remember her lovingly and in prayer.

Now, may I ask you to turn to the back of the Mass booklet, stand, and join me in saying this Irish blessing.

*Irish Prayer:*

*May the road rise up to meet you,*

*May the wind be always at your back,*

*May the Angels welcome you into Paradise,*

*And until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Sister Patricia Butler, SC