

MARION DUGGAN

Marion was raised in Detroit. Her parents, John Duggan and Margaret Healy, met in Detroit after their arrival from Ireland; there were six children: Eileen, Dennis, Margaret, Jack, Marion and Sheila. Eileen died in a fire while her mother was pregnant with Marion, so those two sisters never met. Theirs was a fun family and religion was an important element of family life. Dad worked for Chrysler as a carpenter; Marion still puzzles about what type of job a carpenter filled at Chrysler, but he was a talented carpenter, not a mechanic.



As IHM Sisters moved into other ministries, Marion ministered at a program for the hardcore unemployed in Flint, then Flint Osteopathic Hospital and finally to Genesys Health Care Center, where she remained until she retired. During her ministry at Flint Osteopathic, she recognized the growing need for professional certification and began her evening commute to classes at Michigan

State University in Port Huron, graduating with an MSW while working full time. Somehow in all of this she managed to volunteer as a board member of Genesys hospice!

Marion's vocation was fostered with her relationship with the sisters at Marygrove, where she worked after school at St. Gregory. She knew her vocation was God's will and she accepted it. Knowing the Marygrove connection, her parents had no real objection, although they were not excited about it.

After retiring in 2001, Marion continued to volunteer with a ministry of presence and acceptance, this time at the Genesee County jail. During her time in Flint, she spent most weekends caring for her father. She also traveled many times with her father to the "auld sod," keeping contact with her many Irish relatives.



Although she knew none of her postulant class before entry, she felt liked by leadership and already knew some of the sisters on the faculty because of her Marygrove work and felt comfortable talking to them. She was surprised by the restrictions on talking to professed sisters after her Marygrove experience, admitting that she didn't always keep that rule.

In 2005, Marion and Sister Dorothy Hemmert, OP, with whom she had lived for many years, decided to move to their respective Motherhouses.

This move was fortuitous, since Dorothy died suddenly and peacefully at Adrian just one month after the move.

Marion's 25-year teaching ministry included several schools in Michigan, as well as St. Peter Claver, a school for Black students in Mobile, Ala. She taught all grades two-12 and enjoyed them all. Her years in the segregated south were especially formative, teaching her many lessons about the effects of segregation and poverty that influenced her later ministries.

Marion recognized God's hand and immersed herself in life within the Motherhouse community, especially in driving sisters on family visits and to medical appointments, putting her medical social work experience to good use on their behalf. Her beautiful singing voice has complimented many congregational liturgies, while her teaching experience brought her to membership on the board of Monroe Catholic Central High School.

