

Sister Madeline Fahey, SC
Entered eternal life on March 4, 2022



Madeline Fahey travelled from Roxbury, Massachusetts on September 6, 1955 to join 42 other young women as a postulant in the Sisters of Charity. Her sister Mary, (Sister Robert Xavier of the famous 39ers) had preceded her to Convent. Madeline was one of nine children of Simon Fahey of County Galway, Ireland and Evelyn Beagen of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Her band mates described Madeline as inquisitive and adventurous — this led Madeline and a friend to some unusual experiences in the Novitiate. One fair day, as Senior Novices, some friends (former members) came to visit and invited Madeline and her friend for a little spin to Grunnings in South Orange for ice cream. Upon their return, walking down the hill from the Greek Theater they met the Mistress — Sr. Helen Eucharia, she was certainly not aware that they had been to Grunnings, but she did realize that they were outside of their permitted geographic boundaries. Obviously, they received a penance, which they ingeniously figured a way around. There are other stories of similar innocent escapades but they will be left for another time, however, I am happy to report that they both persevered for these past 66 years.

After completing the Novitiate and making first vows, Madeline's first mission was at St. Andrew's, Westwood, teaching third grade. Sister Emily Marie Walsh was her Superior and became her lifelong friend. In 1961, she received her degree in Mathematics and English from the College of Saint Elizabeth and thus began her ministry in Secondary Education at St. Peter's, New Brunswick, NJ, and then on to Paramus Catholic. While at Paramus Catholic, she pursued further studies at Catholic University earning a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling. There at Catholic U, Madeline roomed with Sister Fran Raftery. Imagine the energy that was in that room!

In the early 70's Madeline moved to Carmel, NY, to teach Math and do Counseling at Lincoln Hall School for boys. This was a school for teenage boys as an alternative to incarceration. You can just imagine how challenging this was, but Madeline was equal to it! She was always ready for a new adventure, she delighted in this ministry and was grateful to have the opportunity to impact the lives of these young men.

After five years at Lincoln Hall, Madeline returned to Paramus Catholic. While there, true to the spirit of the Sisters of Charity, reading the signs of the times, she felt called to a new ministry. And so at the age of 44, Madeline began studies for a nursing degree. Initially, she did prerequisite work at Bergen Community College and worked part-time as a Nursing Aide at St. Joseph's, Paterson, before beginning her full-time studies at William Paterson University. She graduated with her BSN in 1984 and devoted the next 33 years of her life ministering as an oncology nurse at St. Joseph's. The work was challenging and she did it well with competence and compassion.

Her colleagues have very fond memories of working with her. Here I quote some of them:

- *She was my mentor, I would not be the nurse I am today if it were not for her
- * Excellent Nurse
- * Always the teacher
- * Gave 150% for all her patients
- * Always did a little extra for patients, especially those undergoing bone marrow transplants
- * Always had her co-workers backs
- * If you needed help, you wanted Madeline at your side.

She was kind, intelligent, inquisitive, adventurous and FUN! The Sisters at St. Joseph's remember fondly Madeline's great laugh!

Madeline, we are grateful for your example to all of us, for your love of life and your generous spirit, for always seeking new ways to carry out our Mission of Charity. Rest In Peace, friend.

Sister Eileen Clifford, SC