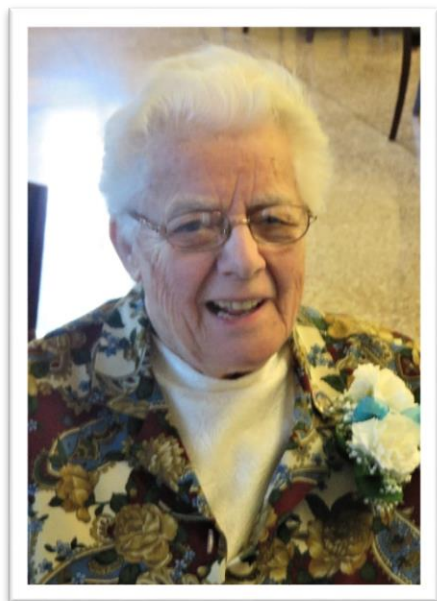


Sister Marian Therese Boudreau, SC

Entered eternal life on April 26, 2022



From her entrance into the Sisters of Charity in April 1951 Sister Marian Therese grew in her understanding of what it was to be a woman of charity, as she grew in her love of God and her devotion to Elizabeth Ann Seton. Through these seven decades Marian's heart and soul echoed the words of Mother Seton: "Lord God... May we learn to express our love for you in love for others" and she did!

Like so many Sisters of Charity, Marian began her ministerial life in the classroom, both elementary and secondary. There's no doubt that her students' experiences of studying French at Saint Mary's High School in Jersey City and East Orange Catholic High School were enhanced by Marian's knowledge of French culture, as she drew on her own French-Canadian heritage. And as her students learned the language, surely Marian's sense of humor and personal warmth attracted them as well. While her dear friend Sister Margaret Maureen Hoffman was a guidance counselor at EOCH, one easily can imagine the girls also turning to Sister Marian with their issues and problems.

It was while she was teaching at EOCH that Marian began her second ministry, becoming a CCD teacher in a local parish. And as she left East Orange, Marian began a ministry of eighteen years at Saint Mary's Parish in Dumont, first as a teacher of religious studies and French, then as the Director of Religious Education, and finally as the Parish Catechetical Leader. Marian enabled children, teens and adults in the parish to draw closer to God. In addition to serving as a Eucharistic minister, Marian was a member of the Parish Council and served on its Education Committee. While she organized retreats in the parish, Marian didn't forget her own sisters. For a number of years she led pilgrimages for the Sisters of Charity to Mother Seton's shrine in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

In the 1990s, Marian and Margaret Maureen found a new outlet for expressing their love for God in love for others, as Marian Therese was appointed Administrator of Mother Seton Residence in Montclair and Margaret joined her as the Assistant Administrator in charge of finances. Mother Seton Residence was a home for women sixty-five years old and older, which offered them a living situation free of the anxiety and stress of living alone, where the emphasis was on making it as much like home as possible. Marian was quoted in an article from *The Advocate* saying that, "Mother Seton Residence is truly a home-away-from-home. The biggest plus is that everyone is happy here." Surely it was Marian's warmth and care that generated that happiness within Mother Seton Residence.

When Mother Seton Residence closed, Marian and Margaret moved to Manchester and, while they claimed to be retired, both were involved in ministry to aging persons in the area through their involvement in Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton church and Saint John church. Once again, they brought the Eucharist to people confined to their homes and assisted their friends in a variety of ways, taking them shopping, to the bank and to medical appointments, and driving them to Mass. Mother Seton once said, "Every good action is a grain of seed for eternal life." We know that Marian's approach to eternal life was well-seeded.

Meanwhile, Marian and Margaret became the center of a circle of friendship, inviting in our sisters who lived in or visited the shore area to what was called "the shore group." There were many gatherings – no agendas, much laughter and superior food.

This was when I got to know Sister Marian as a wonderful friend!

Marian had so many circles/communities of friendship: her family, especially her sisters, Annette and Elaine; her neighbor and confidante, Monsignor Rusconi; her faithful friends, Eileen Flannery, Jackie Bonscher, Grace Sullivan (who happens to be Sister Margaret Maureen's niece); and the 4,000 other close friends whom I apologize for not naming. And, of course, Jaylyn, her much-loved cat.

A phone call with Marian was really a visit on the phone, lasting for at least a half-hour. Whether on the phone or with her face-to-face she focused on the person she was talking to and it was as if that was the only person in the world. Marian truly lived in the moment.

The phone visits always ended with, "God bless you, honey. God love you, honey," repeated no less than four times.

Oh, how we will miss your presence! And so we say to you, Sister Marian Therese: "God bless you, Honey! God love you, Honey! May you enjoy eternal rest, Honey!" Amen!

Sister Beverly Ornes, SC