



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province

Joan McGinty, CSJ
December 28, 1930 – October 25, 2018

There was no snow on the ground on December 28, 1930 when Joan Mary McGinty was born at St. Mary's Hospital in Minneapolis. Joan was the first of six children born to Kathryn (McKay) and Charles McGinty. Not only did she have the distinction of being the oldest, but also she was the only girl. Her brothers knew Joan was always their dad's favorite, and she took pride in being the one he chose to take to baseball games at Parade Stadium. This began her life-long love of sports. When Joan's beloved father died in 1944, she felt a keen responsibility to help her mother as much as she could.

Her strong work ethic started early in life. Her brothers remember that Joan always worked. While in high school at the "old" St. Margaret's Academy, Joan did lots of babysitting and was also employed at the downtown Minneapolis Public Library. The family attended Ascension Parish in north Minneapolis where Joan was deeply influenced by the Sisters of St. Joseph. This influence and that of Joan's aunt, Sister Maria Clare McGinty, CSJ, continued through high school, and on September 8, 1948, Joan entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She became a novice on March 19, 1949 and received the name Sister Donald.

As was typical at that time, Joan began teaching in September after making first vows in 1951 before earning her BA degree in Sociology and Education from the College of St. Catherine in 1959. Despite her inexperience, Joan had a profound influence on her students. Many years after having Joan as his 5th grade teacher, a student wrote, "I have had many memorable teachers and professors throughout high school, college and graduate degree programs. However, none are as memorable as you....Somehow I knew you believed in me."

Joan taught grades 4 through 8 at St. Mary, St. Columba and St. Leo in St. Paul, St. Michael in West St. Paul, and St. Eloi in Ghent, MN. She served as principal of St. Mary, White Bear Lake, Ascension in Minneapolis, St. Peter in Richfield and St. Luke, followed by IHM-St. Luke in St. Paul. She delighted in mentoring new teachers. Joan later earned MA and Education Specialist degrees from St. Thomas College.

After over 40 years in education, Joan used her many skills and competencies to meet new needs. She was a founding co-director of the Sisters of St. Joseph Ministries Foundation in 1993. In the mid-90s she was earth literacy education consultant at the University of St. Thomas and hospitality director at Carondelet Center. Joan devoted her volunteer energies to membership on the CSJ Justice Commission and the Earth Partners Working Group and to being a member of St. Catherine University Board of Trustees.

Dear to Joan's heart were the years she spent as Director of Sarah's...an Oasis for Women, a home dedicated to safety and dignity for a diverse community of women as they healed from traumas. She inspired them to believe they were good women and could begin new and productive lives, and they in turn regarded her as someone they could trust completely.

Meaningful conversation and interpersonal relationships with friends and family were of paramount importance to Joan. She delighted in interacting with people and participating in activities at Carondelet Village, especially the music. As her ability to verbalize her thoughts lessened, she expressed her appreciation for company with a simple thank you, come again or a squeeze of the hand.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents Kathryn (McKay) and Charles McGinty, aunt, Maria Clare McGinty, CSJ, uncles and their wives Allan and Lydia McKay, Donald McKay and Gerald and Mary Esther McKay, sister-in-law Barb McGinty, and her dear, long-time friend Maggie Kvasnicka, CSJ. She is survived by her brothers and sisters-in-law Don and Donna McGinty, Tom McGinty, John and Bev McGinty, Tim and Carlie McGinty and Charlie McGinty, many beloved nieces, nephews, grand and great-grand nieces and nephews and cousins and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 at 11:00 AM in Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel, 1884 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul, MN with Visitation beginning at 10:00 AM. A luncheon at Carondelet Center followed the Mass. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, MN.

Sister Joan,
compassionate listener, innovative educator,
respected leader and administrator, kind-hearted woman,
rest in love and peace.