

Sister Mary Charla Rosemary Gannon, 90

Sister Mary Charla Rosemary Gannon of Chicago, Ill., died on June 8, 2012. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, July 11, at 10 a.m. at Mercy Convent Chapel. Burial followed at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Sister Mary Charla grew up in her beloved State of Iowa. She was the second oldest of four children born to Elmer and Rose (Gallagher) Gannon. Father Charles was the eldest, Larry the second youngest, with Sister Pat Laurus, also of Chicago, as the youngest.

Sister Charla graduated from Brooklyn Public High School in 1940 and in September entered the Sisters of Mercy in Des Plaines, Ill. She earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in history from St. Xavier College and Loyola University, respectively.

From 1943 until 1969 she taught in various schools in Illinois. Then, for almost 10 years, she taught TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) in the Chicago Public Schools.

In 1979, Sister Charla changed her ministry to become a Minister of Care at St. Bede the Venerable Parish on Chicago's South Side. While serving there, she published a Ministry of Prayer handbook for the elderly and shut-ins. While working at St. Bede, Sister Charla also founded one of the first Adoration Chapels in Chicago. Queen of the Angels Chapel is still being prayed in today.

In 1996, Sister Charla retired to Mercy Convent where Sister Laurus says, "She received excellent care and support."

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