

Sr Moira Ryan

1935 -2023



Any reference to the life of our dear Sr Moira Ryan must include these words of St Paul to the Romans, Chapter 14:7-9 ***“The life and death of each of us has its influence on others, if we live, we live for the Lord; if we die we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.***

These words of St Paul give us a glimpse of the character of our beloved Sr Moira who went to her eternal home on November 7th 2023,

Moira was born on the 23 of April 1935 in Gowlan, Dooastle, Co Mayo to Michael Ryan and Nora Hunt. Blessed with a wonderfully caring family background, Moira was encouraged to develop her artistic qualities of Music, dancing, drawing, painting, song and storytelling which would be used to great effect in her future life as a Marist Sister.

Having completed her Secondary Education in the Marist Convent, Tubbercurry, Co Sligo, Moira felt the call to live her life as a Marist Sister. She was received into the Marist Society on the 17th of August 1954, being now called Sr Redempta. The following year she made her first profession and spent her first year in St Prix, France, as a scholastic. We can only assume that time spent in the Motherhouse of our society confirmed her in her desire to be a missionary, and so in 1956 her reflections became a reality and a young vibrant Sr Redempta set out for our Missions in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. This would be her home for the next seventeen years.

As a young enthusiastic teacher, Sr Redempta embraced all things Marist. She treated her pupils with a deep love and reverence recognising not only the bright, well adjust child but also the one who struggled to keep up with class. Her artistic temperament enabled her to create a “Bagpack” of resources suitable for all needs and abilities. She also supported some of our own sisters in their time of training and shared generously her own resources. Her good humour and happy disposition endeared her to all.

In 1973, Sr Redempta, having now changed back to her baptismal name, Sr Moira, returned to her homeland and quickly adjusted to her home Mission. Teaching, Retreat Work, Parish Work, Marist Laity were part of her everyday life. Her little Honda50 was a necessary part of her travel requirements. Much to the amusement of her sisters in Sundrive Road, Moira could be seen flying down O Connell Street, in full habit on her way to fulfil some duty or other.

In retirement Moira wrote a book “Happy Days”. This activity led her down many paths including to her early days in Gowlan and the people who were part of her early years. The book gave her an opportunity to present many drawings of family members and was beautifully presented. She also used her artistic talent in Marist Scripts and drawings and when the opportunity arose she could write an amazing parody.

