



Sr Una Giblin

30th July 1931 – 07th April 2024

“Surely Goodness and kindness shall follow me....”

Sr Una Giblin went to her eternal reward early on Sunday morning April the 7th, in her Community with our Marist Sisters at her bedside. She died as she lived quietly and peacefully.

Born in Cloonfane, Charlestown, Co Mayo on 30 July 1931 to parents Martin and Annie Giblin, from a family of teachers and religious, she entered the Marist Sisters Community in Carrick on Shannon on 7th August 1952, and made her final profession five years later.

After a further five years as a student in UCD, she began her teaching ministry back in Carrick in 1958. For seven years she taught Irish, French and Music. As a musician Una was always available for teaching and playing at all religious functions in her Community. The pupils were privileged to have her expertise in the classroom. Piano and Harp were her preferred instruments. Una was always ready for a song. In her later years as her memory began to fade she could still play the piano and sing her favourite Irish tunes, “Moonlight in Mayo” and “You are my Sunshine” being among her favourites.

There followed three years of study in Rome before returning to the Marist Novitiate in Carrick on Shannon as Novice Mistress. Here she brought a special blend of good nature, humour, intellect, generosity and light heartedness that speaks loudly of the “Joy of the Gospel”. Not for her were the worried looks of those who feel overwhelmed by life. Una took it all in her stride. She was the joyful, happy face in every group. No doubt many sisters who spent their formation years in the Novitiate with Sr Una will have very happy memories of this time together.

From 1975 to 1981 Sr Una was Superior of our Provincial House in Kenilworth Square where she busied herself in Administration, meeting with sisters and constantly supporting them in their varied ministries. It was at this time that she enjoyed a very fruitful refresher course in Liturgy, her first love.

Following her stint as Superior, Una went back to Carrick on Shannon for another three years in formation, then ten more years teaching in Carrick up to 1995. Her musical skills deepened even further. As retirement loomed and at a time when Una’s contemporaries would normally “hang up their boots”, not so Una. She spent a further fourteen years

working in the Secretariat of the Irish Missionary Union. Being a perfectionist with an excellent command of Commercial subjects she was a real asset to the Secretariat.

For those of us who accompanied Sr Una during this later Chapter of her journey we were always enthused by her joy in service and calm in adversity. She accepted the difficulties of old age with joy and peace.

In His homily during the Requiem Mass for Sr Una, Fr Seamus O Rourke summed up her life and effect on others as follows:

“There are many rooms in my Father’s house.....” God embraces all, not just the pious and the serious, not just the cautious and compliant, but also the brave, those who push boundaries of humanity, those who live on the lighter side, those who are accepting of the variety God’s creation – not just the stereotypical religious but those who embrace the variety and giftedness of all God’s creation”.

Sr Una will remain in our hearts as we frequent her graveside with a little prayer of thanksgiving for a life well lived in the Society of Mary.

Ar dheis De go raibh a h-anan dhilis

