

SISTER HANNAH NAUGHTON

18th January 1932 – 16th January 2025



On 18th January 1932, Hannah was born to her parents, Peter and Hannah Naughton in Clonbegane, Ballydangan, Athlone, Co. Roscommon, Ireland. One of ten children, Hannah was born into a faith-filled and loving family where daily prayer, attendance at Sunday Mass and supporting the local community was a priority. Hannah recalled her parents' devotion to Our Lady and how they would gather the family together in the

evening to pray the Rosary. Thus, was laid a solid foundation in the faith and in Hannah's call to Marist Religious life. She received her primary education in the local Cameloon National School, followed by her secondary education at the Mercy Convent in Athlone.

On 28th February 1951, Hannah, in response to God's calling and a strong desire to give herself totally to the Lord in religious life, was received as a novice at St. Brigid's Novitiate, Carrick-on-Shannon, following in the footsteps of her two sisters, Genevieve and Margaret, who were already professed Marist Sisters. On 3rd March 1952, Hannah made profession of her first vows in Carrick and then was appointed to the Tubbercurry community where on 15th August 1956. she celebrated her Perpetual Profession.

Professional training for Nursing and Health Care at St. John and Elizabeth's Hospital in London followed, where she graduated as a State Registered Nurse; further studies led to diplomas in Midwifery, District Nursing, Health Visitor etc. Her ministry in Nursing took her to a variety of settings in England – these included the Hammersmith and Fulham areas of London, Ottery St Mary in Devon and West Byfleet where she worked as a nurse 'in house' or on the district, in her capacity as health visitor. She served at the National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham, taking on numerous tasks and supporting pilgrims. On overseas mission, Hannah spent two years nursing in a hospital in Tunsdorf, Germany and a year in Kaduna in Nigeria. In each setting, Hannah gave of her best and always strove to improve the situation of her patients and their families.

Hannah's ministry both in healthcare, pastoral ministry and as a member of community was enhanced through her experience of Spiritual Renewal Courses in the UK and a sabbatical year in the USA. She served in many communities

and was always ready to respond to a need, to recognise possibilities and to give of best. She willingly served as community leader for six years in Birmingham and as local bursar in Hythe. Hannah was an outgoing person who loved life, recognising possibilities in every new situation and ready to give of her best.

In retirement and as health issues became a cause for concern, Hannah joined the Villa Maria community where medical support was readily available as and when she needed it.

However, Hannah still had energy and enthusiasm for life and she continued to drive and to render service as a chauffeur when necessary; she delighted in being an associate of a knitting project, producing attractive garments for children and families in need. She enjoyed gardening and delighted in seeing her plants develop and blossom. She loved crosswords and all kinds of words puzzles – in her own words, they ‘kept the brain ticking over’!

Hannah’s final ministry was that of learning to cope with rapidly deteriorating health throughout the last year of her life. She graciously accepted the extra support and care she needed from the staff and was grateful for the service she received. She enjoyed the solitude of her room and the opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection. She continued to join the community for Mass and for meals on her better days but toward the end, it was members of the community spending time with her, in her room, that gave her peace and joy. Her rosary was seldom out of her hands. She was at peace.

During the final week of her life, her strength gradually faded and it was obvious that our dear Hannah was nearing the end of her earthly journey. The visit of the parish priest and the Sacrament of Anointing brought her comfort and a tranquility that never left her until she died in the early hours of 16th January.

Rest now in God’s eternal peace, dear Hannah.

