

Sister Margaret Glick, SSND - 70 Year Jubilee!



Sister Margaret Glick was born in Cumberland, Maryland on July 4, 1928. She is the youngest of the three daughters and two sons born to parents, Francis Joseph Glick, a native of Cumberland, and Helen Rose Wieseckel Glick of Pittsburgh. She grew up in a close, loving family that had deep Catholic roots. Her mother went to daily Mass. Margaret and her brother, Bill, knew at a young age they would go into religious life.

They would dress up as a nun and priest when they were children. When Sister Margaret describes her family she says two siblings went into religious life, two were married, and one is a saint – her sister who died at 15 and a half years.

This year Sister Margaret is celebrating her 70th jubilee. “Can you believe it? I can’t imagine...70 years.” She spoke about one of her favorite ministries that took place each summer in Hancock, Maryland for 20 years.

In 1977, just a couple of weeks after the end of the school year, Sister Margaret and Sister Mary Jane Buhrman travelled daily from Hagerstown to Hancock for three weeks out of the summer to teach summer religion school to children from the nearby Little Orleans Parish. “Our summers were busy. Once school closed, sometimes we would go on retreat before starting up the summer sessions. The kids were cute – most of them. We didn’t have much trouble with the kids, especially the young ones.” The sisters would work to get the children “back on track with their prayers and preparation for confession” at St. Peter’s Church. Sister Margaret would drive, her art supplies in tow, up to Hancock where she taught arts and crafts. “They did like the arts and crafts. The high school students were our helpers.” She also prepared meals for the four to five sisters who would help teach the more than 60 students. Classes were taught in the rectory cellar, hallways, and on occasion, the front porch and church were also put to use as makeshift classrooms.

In 1980, Sister Margaret’s brother, Bill, was named pastor of St. Peter’s Church. Soon after, during those three weeks in summer, the sisters would take charge of the rectory and rather than commuting back to Hagerstown, they would spend the three weeks in Hancock. Sometimes Sister Margaret’s mother would join them. A variety of nuns would come from the area and even from Florida and Pennsylvania to stay and teach religion classes in the summer.

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"It was three weeks of good fun." Sister Margaret laughed when she recalled one of the crafts projects she led with the children. The kids spent their class period decorating cigar boxes with dry macaroni. The next day they found the room and their embellished boxes ransacked by the mice that had devoured the crunchy pasta the night before. Another project Sister Margaret recalls was recycling beaded car seat covers popular in the 1970s. The students reused the beads by stringing them together to make necklaces and bracelets.

St. Peter's Church evolved into a special gathering place for Sister Margaret and her family. Over the years, Pastor Bill Glick led the construction of a hall for CCD classes and bingo. Family members would gather at the rectory for fellowship and fun. Even the Glick family kitchen table and other family pieces eventually furnished the rectory. Every Saturday, Sister Margaret, her mother, and Pastor Bill would go to nearby St. Patrick's Church in Little Orleans where Father Bill celebrated Mass for the small community of farmers, hunters and lumbermen. Sister Margaret was charmed by the simple elegance of the church and the shamrock window constructed by Irish immigrants circa 1860 – the same people who built the C & O Canal. Sister Margaret cherishes the memories of those summers in Hancock, teaching children, ministering alongside her brother, and for the opportunity to be so close with her family and to have shared those special experiences. "I feel it's always been in God's hands."

