

*SISTER ANGELA*

*OF THE SACRED HEART*

*O'CALLAGHAN*



*BORN TO EARTHLY LIFE:*

*AUGUST 7, 1931*

*BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE:*

*JANUARY 3, 2019*

**Sister Angela O'Callaghan**  
**Province of U.S.A. & Canada**  
**1931 - 2019**

Sister Angela O'Callaghan was born to her parents, Patrick and Mary O'Callaghan, on August 7, 1931 in Loughfouder, Knocknagoshel, Co. Kerry, Ireland. Her parents were good and faith-filled people providing a happy home for their five children, Nora, Jerry, Jimmy, Bridget (Sister Angela) and the youngest child, Mary, who died a few days after birth.

'Bridie', as she was fondly called by her family and friends, attended a local primary school in Loughfouder and then went to the Cluny Sisters' Mount Sackville Boarding School in Dublin for her secondary education. She entered religious life with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny and pronounced her vows on March 8, 1951 in Gallen Priory, Febane Offaly. She was now Sister Angela of the Sacred Heart O'Callaghan!

Missioned to the United States in that year, 1951, she began her teaching career in Saints Peter & Paul Elementary School, Wilmington, California. With the other Irish Sisters, who arrived with her, the newness of this experience was both challenging and at times amusing.

After teaching in California for 10 years, Sister Angela was missioned to Cluny School, Newport, Rhode Island in 1961. There she served as Principal of the school, taught various grades, studied at Salve Regina College and served as Local Superior in the community.

From 1967 to 1976 Sister Angela was once again missioned to California as Principal of St. Catherine Laboure School, and as Local Superior in Torrance, California. During this time she also received her Master's Degree.

In 1977, Sister Angela once again made the trek across the country when she returned to Cluny School, Newport, Rhode Island teaching Grade 8 for the next 12 years and serving as Vice-Principal for 7 of those years. From 1979 until its closure in 1982, Sister Angela lived at 'Stella Maris' in Newport commuting to Cluny School. During her years in the classroom Sister Angela was a kind and understanding teacher along with being a disciplinarian. While the students knew Sister Angela cared for them, they knew she meant what she said.

In 1989 Sister Angela retired from teaching and turned her natural giftedness for 'doing a little good' to pastoral/health care. While still maintaining a presence in the school through tutoring and her position as librarian, her ministry took her to the sick, the aged and the dying. Sister Angela was one of the first volunteers in the Newport Hospice program. Staying with those receiving care, her presence gave some 'respite' time to caregivers. At the same time Sister Angela was a part-time nurse's aide at Village House Nursing Home in Newport.

In 1991 she was missioned to our community in Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral Rectory, Providence, Rhode Island where, for the next 16 years, she was involved in pastoral ministry in the Cathedral Parish as well as directing the work of the Bishop's lay staff in the Cathedral rectory.

In 1997 she received the 'Quality of Life' Award at a banquet sponsored by the Rhode Island Association of Facilities and Services for the Aging. She was honored for her many hours of dedicated service to Steere House and especially for her spiritual guidance to the residents of this nursing and rehabilitation center.

Over many years Sister Angela joined the organized diocesan group traveling to Washington, D.C. for the annual Pro-Life Rally and March for Life ... a cause dear to her heart! She also participated in pilgrimages, which took the sick to St. Joseph's shrine in Montreal, Ouebec, Canada. This experience of serving the sick was very satisfying and fulfilling.

Sister Angela loved her native land of Ireland and had devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady of Knock. She loved her family and was especially close to her brother, Jim, who died in June 2018. She looked forward to her visits home and in these later years, visits at St. Clare's from her nieces, friends and past students. One of the hallmarks of her character was the ease with which she entered the lives of others, listening to their stories and being present in their lives especially during times of great joy or sorrow. She loved telling and hearing stories, had a welcoming smile and twinkle in her eye and enjoyed having fun.

Due to serious health conditions, in 2007, Sister Angela took up residence at St. Clare Home, Newport, Rhode Island. Her lack of physical mobility, writing and telephoning limited her, and her failing memory and dementia became more acute. She began the long journey towards Calvary. In this journey she shared in the Passion through experiencing deep emotional, psychological and physical suffering. She continued to attend Mass and was happy to have visits from her Cluny Sisters, family, friends and past students.

After the death of Sister Joseph Edwards, in November 2017, who had been a companion for many years, along with the death of her dear brother, Jim in 2018, Sister Angela began longing to be with her family in the fullness of God's Presence and God heard her prayer. She quietly slipped away on January 3, 2019 at St. Clare Home.

Sister Angela was a true missionary disciple, willing to respond to the needs as they were presented to her. This willingness to 'do a little good' not only brought her across the Atlantic but then had her travel across the continent of North America four different times. Her final years of suffering were of the type that she could never imagine. The journey is over. The giving is complete! Sister Angela now rests in the fullness of the Sacred Heart's love! May she rest in perfect peace always knowing that we miss her!