

Sister Maureen Becker OSF
1938-2013



Sister Maureen Becker was born March 29, 1938, in Sublette, Illinois, the daughter of Harold and Mary Magdalena (Kelly) Becker. She was baptized Shirley Ann at St. Patrick's Church, Maytown, Illinois, on April 17, 1938. She had a younger brother, Harold Becker, Jr.

She entered the Sisters of St. Francis at Mount St. Clare Convent on September 8, 1956, and received the name Maureen at her reception June 17, 1957. She made her first profession August 12, 1959, and her final profession on August 12, 1962. Her novitiate classmates included Sisters Marilyn Barry, Martinelle Bonnell, and Marilyn Shea.

She attended Maytown Public grade school and Mount St. Clare Academy, Clinton, graduating in 1956. She attended Mount St. Clare College and received a B. S. in Elementary Education from Viterbo College, La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1968, an M. A. in Administration and Supervision in Elementary Education from University of Northern Iowa in 1972, and an M. A. in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois in 1986. She also completed units in Clinical Pastoral Education in Davenport, Iowa, and Peoria, Illinois, and was a member of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains.

Sister Maureen's love of people spanned all ages from children through the elderly, and her outgoing personality helped her develop life-long friendships. Her ministry included both education and pastoral care. She taught primary and intermediate grades at St. Gerald's, Oak Lawn, Illinois; Holy Family, Lidderdale, Iowa; and Sacred Heart, Clinton, Iowa. She served as a principal for a total of 20 years at Sacred Heart and St. Patrick's Schools in Clinton and at St. Paul's School, Macomb, Illinois.

After obtaining a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies in 1986, she began a second career in pastoral ministry. She served as Pastoral Associate at St. Joseph Parish, Rock Island, Illinois, and Associate Director of Pastoral Care at Franciscan Medical Center/Trinity Medical Center, Rock Island, Illinois. From 1997-2003, she was a chaplain at Trinity Regional Health Center, Moline, Illinois. She later served in pastoral ministry at St. Margaret's Hospital, Spring Valley, Illinois, and as Director of Pastoral Care at Pine View Care Center, St. Charles, Illinois.

Sister Maureen was a member of the General Council for the Sisters of St. Francis from 1988-1992. A talented singer, she was a member of the Clinton Franciscan Singing Sisters who recorded the album *Come Along* in 1972. She also enjoyed serving as cantor for community liturgical celebrations.

Because of declining health, she retired at The Canticle in October 2011 and moved to the Alverno in March 2013.

She was preceded in death by her parents and by her sister-in-law, Mary Becker.

She is survived by her brother, Harold (Junior), six nieces and one nephew- Connie Becker, Karen Jones, and Sharon Edmunds from Illinois and Maureen, Colleen, Cindy and Marty Becker from California, and by the Sisters of St. Francis with whom she made her home for 57 years. Sister Maureen died on November 21, 2013 at Mercy Medical Center.