



Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan, OSB

Educator, Principal, Prioress, and Treasurer

Benedictine Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan, 78, died Oct. 5, 2020 at St. Scholastica Monastery

Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan a native of St. Symphorosa Parish Chicago, attended Mount Assisi High School in Lemont, IL and entered St. Scholastica Monastery during the fall of 1960. On July 11, 1961, she received the habit as a Benedictine Sister of Chicago and the religious name Sister Veronica. Following the novitiate year, she made first profession on August 16, 1962, and then was enrolled at Mundelein College. As a young and carefully supervised teacher, she began her long career as an educator with two years of teaching in first grade at Queen of All Saints, before returning to Mundelein to complete her Bachelor’s degree in 1967. Her MA in history, earned at Loyola University in 1974 was followed by M.Ed. in administration and supervision in 1977. She later taught “Western Civilization” and other history courses at Loyola University. In addition to Queen of All Saints, Sister Mary Ann taught in Chicago at St. Hilary, Children of Peace, and St. Scholastica Academy and in Colorado, at St. Michael’s in Delta. She was principal at St. Hilary’s and Dean of Students at SSA. Elected Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago in 1982 she served four years. At her installation, she shared a cherished verse from the prophet Micah: “This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this: that you act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.” This clearly guided her not only in that role, but in all the other important positions that she held. Most recently as treasurer of the community since 2012, Sister Mary Ann has also been President of Illinois Treasurers of Religious Institutes which is Region 8 of Resource Center for Religious Institutes. She leaves a legacy of major accomplishments, and will be remembered for the manner in which she blended an active and contemplative life.

In the Archdiocese of Chicago, Sister Mary Ann taught in parish schools at Queen of All Saints (1963-64; 1970-73), St. Hilary (1964-65; 1973-74; Principal 1974-1980), St. Scholastica Academy (Dean of Students 1980-82, 1998-2012, Children of Peace (1994-98).

At Loyola University of Chicago, Sister Mary Ann taught from 1988-91; 1993-94 courses-Western Civilization, US History, World History, and Gender History.

In the diocese of Pueblo, Sister Mary Ann taught at St. Michael’s Delta, Colorado (1967-70).