



Sister Margaret O'Dwyer

1954-2023

Sister Margaret O'Dwyer always stood out. She had red hair and was younger than many of Daughters of Charity missioned to Nashville in the 1990s. Sr. Margaret was friendly and outgoing. This combined with a hint of awkwardness gave her a unique, distinctive and fun personality.

Sister Margaret was an attorney by training. She was analytical and yet engaging. She served as a clinical ethicist during her appointment to the local health ministry in Nashville. During her assignment she also served as a member of the Centennial celebration committee, a group charged with organizing celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the hospital.

In the first meeting of the committee, Sister reminded the committee that "centennial" was also the name of our cross-town competitor. She advised us to instead adopt "A Century of Caring" as our naming convention. We were always made better by her sage counsel.

Sister Margaret would eventually be missioned to the Cook Islands in the South Pacific where she taught elementary school and provided for the needs of the poor. Cancer took her from us prematurely, but her life and ministry is remembered for an earnest commitment to doing all things well.

Story provided by Greg Pope, CMIO, Ascension TN