



Remember in November...

November is a time when we remember all those who have gone to God. In 2016, eight OLA Sisters went to their heavenly reward. Today, we take a few moments to share a little about each of the eight Sisters. The Sisters combined gave over 540 years of service on the missions.



Circle of Life: Remembering the eight OLA Sisters who went home to God during 2016 after giving over 540 years of service to the missions.



Sr. Dorothy O'Brien

Sr. Dorothy was born in Rineen, Skibereen, Co. Cork in 1920 and made her First Profession in 1946. She taught in Ibadan, Nigeria and in Cork. Sr. Dorothy spent some time as a social worker, also in Cork, and gave many years of cheerful service at the Ardfoyle Convent reception. Sr. Dorothy was called home to God on 28th February, 2016. Sr. Kathleen Mc Garvey spoke at Sr. Dorothy's funeral:

"Sr. Dorothy was a woman who loved life; she loved God, she loved people, and she loved fun. She is still fondly remembered in Nigeria by her past pupils and especially by the OLAs who were once her novices. People whose lives she touched here in Ireland, whether as a social worker or as a friend, still called on her regularly. She had such a wonderful gift of friendship and really took an interest in people's lives, giving her full and sincere attention to whoever was with her."



Sr. Catherine O'Connor

Sr. Catherine was born in Blarney, Co. Cork in 1920. She made her First Profession in 1951. Soon after, Sr. Catherine served in Keta and Hohoe, Ghana, working in schools. She later trained as a nurse. Sr. Catherine nursed in Kaduna and Jos, Nigeria, in Castlemagarret, Co. Mayo and in the infirmary at Ardfoyle Convent. Sr. Catherine went to her heavenly reward on 20th March, 2016. Sr. Kathleen Mc Garvey spoke of Sr. Catherine during her funeral mass:

"Sr. Catherine was a most caring and capable nurse. The Provincial of Nigeria has sent a beautiful letter of condolence and said the testimony of love and service that Sr. Catherine gave in Nigeria remains a legacy they will forever cherish. Among my own memories of Sr. Catherine are her love when tending the flowers and rose bushes here in Ardfoyle, and her gentle care when feeding the birds even from her infirmary room. No doubt the birds are singing out this day!"



Sr. Teresa O'Brien

Born in Shepperton, Skibereen, Co. Cork in 1921, Sr. Teresa celebrated the 75th anniversary of her First Profession in March 2016. She went to Nigeria and served, as a teacher, in Kaduna, Kakuri, Maryland, Ibadan, Akwanga, Iwo, Ubiaja and Benin City. Sr. Teresa also spent some time on mission in Leigh, U.K, and across Ireland. Sr. Teresa went home to God on 6th April, 2016. Sr. Maria Lee spoke of Sr. Teresa's life at her funeral mass:

"Apart from school work, Sr. Teresa's other activities included visitation of a night market and teaching some of the Muslim women English when requested to do so by some of their leaders! Sr.

Teresa didn't just get involved herself, she brought the girls with her and got them involved. She said: 'The students themselves were very happy. They were greatly motivated to their future careers'. There is absolutely no doubt of her love for the students, the people and her zeal for the Kingdom of God!"



Sr. Stella Marie O'Sullivan

Sr. Stella Marie was born in Castlehaven, Skibereen, Co. Cork in 1923. She made her First Profession in 1950. Sr. Stella Marie spent almost forty years between Ubiaja, Ughelli, Agbor, Warri and Asaba in Nigeria. She was primarily involved in teaching, administration, formation and parish work. Sr. Stella Marie went to God on 8th April, 2016. Sr. Kathleen Mc Garvey addressed those at her funeral mass:

"In the words of some Nigerian sisters who knew her there, she was a pastoral woman and an evangelizer who was very passionate about reaching out to the people, especially to the poor. She is remembered as the Sister who went daily on home or hospital visitation always carrying in her pocket her notebook and her biro, to write down the names of those she met so as to remember them in prayer."



Sr. Elizabeth Hayes

Sr. Elizabeth was born in Ballyneale, Co. Limerick in 1920. She made her First Profession in 1939. Sr. Elizabeth worked in Nigeria, as a teacher, for over 50 years serving in Kaduna, Minna, Ibadan, Lagos and Abeokuta. On her return to Ireland, Sr. Elizabeth worked in Rostrevor, Co. Down and in Ardfoy. She was called home to God on 4th June, 2016. Sr. Kathleen McGarvey shared some thoughts at Sr. Elizabeth's funeral mass:

"Those who knew Sr. Elizabeth very well say that she was a woman of faith, courage, a zealous missionary dedicated to her prayers, compassionate and community person who cherished Nigeria and Nigerians. It is often remarked that Sr. Elizabeth granted admission to the schools to children from very disadvantaged backgrounds who as a result became professional lawyers, doctors and highly placed persons in society."



Sr. Dolores Davis

Sr. Delores was born in Farniharpy, Screene, Co. Sligo in 1920. She made her First Profession in 1943 and set sail for Africa in 1948, where she served as a teacher. She spent some years in Ghana, serving in Cape Coast, Keta and Ho. Sr. Delores also taught across many parts of Nigeria including

Barakin Ladi, Maryland, Kaduna and Jos. On her return to Ireland, she served in Castlemagarret, Co. Mayo and Ardfoyle, Cork. Sr. Delores went to her eternal reward on 18th August, 2016. Sr. Kathleen McGarvey reminded those present at her funeral that her legacy lives on:

“During her time in Ghana, Sr. Delores helped form the Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church. Today the congregation has about eighty Sisters present in three Ghanaian Dioceses, serving God’s Kingdom through the fields of health and education.”



Sr. Deanna Donohoe

Sr. Deanna Donohoe was born in Portlaoise, Co. Laois in 1942. In 1967, Sr. Deanna made her First Profession. Nigeria was her first mission where she nursed in Akwanga and Papiri. Sr. Deanna later went to Mwamapalala, Tanzania to assist with a new OLA mission in the east African country. Since then, Sr. Deanna worked in Lancaster, Castlemagarret in Co. Mayo, Cuan Mhuire addiction centre (Athy), and Tanzania. Sr. Deanna went to God on 31st August, 2016. In 2008, Sr. Deanna wrote of her work at Cuan Mhuire:

“Now my life is more about honouring this God given gift of life by living from within and sharing this unconditional love with all whom God sends into my life. Cuan Mhuire is giving me the opportunity to live that just now.”



Sr. Ligouri Smiddy

Sr. Ligouri Smiddy was born in Garryoughtra, Mogeely, Co. Cork in 1925. She made her First Profession in 1946 and celebrated her platinum jubilee earlier this year. She was on mission in Nigeria for almost 40 years, serving as a nurse, midwife and administrator in Abeokuta, Ijebu-Igbo, Akwanga, Jos, Okeoffa, Bacita, Yaba, Zawan and Agbor. Sr. Ligouri also spent some years with varying apostolates in Cork and Castlemagarret, Co. Mayo. Sr. Ligouri answered God’s heavenly call on 27th October 2016. Sr. Kathleen Mc Garvey shared these words during Sr. Ligouri’s funeral mass:

“Her years in Africa, all in Nigeria, allowed Sr. Ligouri to bring care and healing to the lives of many people in very different settings, in big hospitals, in small clinics, in leper settlements, in urban areas and in rural areas. I’m told that in her service of the sick, wherever she worked, she was tireless and totally devoted.”

May each Sister rest in gentle peace.

‘I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race I have kept the faith...and now the prize awaits me...’

2. Timothy 4: 7