

**REFLECTION ON THE LIFE OF
SISTER JOAN MARIE MADDEN, SC**
July 31, 1927 - February 10, 2022



Sister Joan Marie Madden baptized Joan Loretta Madden on August 14, 1927. It was noted on her Baptismal Certificate incorrectly that she was born July 21, 2027. Joan Loretta was born July 31st in Pittsburgh, PA, the seventh child of Joseph and Helen Madden.

Sister Joan Marie was the last surviving of the 8 Madden children. She had 4 brothers Joseph, Eugene, James, Robert and 3 sisters Rita, Sister Mary Ronald and Sister Baptista. Sister Joan Marie is survived by her many nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews,

Joseph is present with us today and Elizabeth and Steven are viewing the service on livestream along with other family members who were not able to be here with us today.

Sister Joan Marie graduated from Holy Ghost Academy in 1945. She initially tried the working world, but that didn't last long. Sister Joan Marie entered the Sisters of Charity January 1, 1946, joining her two older sisters, Sister Mary Ronald and Sister Baptista.

Sister Joan Marie received a BA in History and English from Seton Hill and an MED in Library Science from Duquesne University.

She spent her entire active ministry in the field of education, ministering for a short time in elementary school in Greensburg and Pittsburgh. In 1958, she

made her first trip to Arizona teaching at St. John's High School and then Salpointe High School. She returned to the east to teach at St. Anslem High School for 4 short years.

In 1968 Sister Joan Marie began her 41 year tenure at Seton Catholic High School. During those years she worked as a teacher, administrator, librarian and registrar.

Over the years, Sister Joan Marie touched many lives.

She was honored with Seton Catholic High Schools' first Elizabeth Seton Award as a person who evidences Elizabeth Seton's virtues of "integrity, dedication, dependability, compassion, patience and conviction". In 2004, on the occasion of Seton Catholic's 50th anniversary Sister Joan Marie along with her sister, Sister Mary Ronald, was recognized in the inaugural Hall of Fame.

In addition to the time Sister Joan Marie spent at Seton Catholic, she was active in St. Mary's Parish choir, singing at 11:00 A.M. Mass every Sunday. On Tuesday evenings Sister joined with Arizona State University Choral Union for practice. Over the years Sister performed with the Choral Union as well as the Phoenix Symphony and Opera. She traveled with the group to Mexico City and Austria for performances.

When in 2009, Sister Joan Marie retired from active ministry in Chandler, Father Rob Clements stated, "Nobody's too fooled, underneath her cap is one of the sharpest, quickest wits and brightest humors we could find. She has no fear except maybe of bad music, she even braved the log ride at Disneyland with me twice. Joan each of us is going to have our own tastes and temperaments- but you were always concerned that the bonds of charity were maintained. You're keen when it comes to evaluating an idea, but judging a person would be unthinkable, if I haven't learned something from you it would be never to label people."

The faculty of Seton Catholic did a parody to the melody of Seton's alma mater.

*Sister Joan Marie, we love you
And we're sad to see you go.
You have touched so many lives here
And to you there's much we owe.*

*You are leaving us with a legacy
And we'll do our best to show
That we're thankful, all you've done for us.
This we promise you before you go.*

*In the time that you have been here
Seton Catholic has made its mark.
It's from you we know its history
And of it we feel we're a part*

*Now before you go to Seton Hill,
We would all like to decree
That our love will be always with you.
Go with God, Sister Joan Marie.*

So in 2009 Sister Joan Marie returned to the motherhouse and became involved in the daily business of assisting our sisters. As an avid reader, Sister Joan Marie spent her time reading to those sisters who were light challenged. As she said "It just makes me even more grateful for my own ability to see, hear and walk."

As long as she was able she sang in the Sisters' choir and was a cantor at Mass.

Many hours were spent in prayer in chapel before the Eucharist. Daily Mass was a must in her life, even to the day before she died. Singing and praying brought great delight to Sister Joan Marie.

On the occasion of her 50th Jubilee, Sister Joan Marie stated that one of her favorite passages in Scripture is, “What am I, Lord, that you should be mindful of me? I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with all my heart. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to Your Name, Most High.”

Sister Joan Marie, join your family and the choirs of angels and sing giving honor and glory to God.

Eternal Rest Grant unto her and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.

Funeral Liturgy Reflection
Sister Mary Norbert Long, SC
February 16, 2022