

Sr. Edith (Mariella) Fitzgerald, OP- 60 Year Jubilee

Sr. Edith (Mariella) Fitzgerald, OP, is celebrating her 60th Jubilee as a Dominican Sister of St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, Ohio. A native of Plain City, Ohio, Sister earned her BS in biology, physical education, and health from The Ohio State University.

At the time, the Plain City area was a hotbed of activity for the Ku Klux Klan, which had burned a cross in the Fitzgerald yard when Edith was young. She was warned that she would not get a job teaching in the area because she was Catholic. She got a job and taught in the Bremen Public School System for five and a half years.

Sr. Edith first met the Dominican Sisters when her parish priest asked her to drive the Sisters from Lancaster for religious education classes. She enjoyed getting to know the Sisters and, when they suggested that she become a receptionist at the Motherhouse and also drive the school bus, she accepted. Soon, she began to teach with the Sisters and, gradually, she was drawn to the symbolism of the habit and to the sacredness of religious life. She entered the Novitiate in 1946.

After First Profession, Sr. Edith taught in elementary and high schools in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut. From 1952-55, she was principal and eighth-grade teacher at Christ the King School in Columbus. In the meantime, she earned an MEd at the University of Notre Dame, followed by a grant from Coos Bay, the University of Oregon, to study marine biology. From 1986 until 1992, Sister ministered in health and physical education at Seton Square North, a senior residence. Then, she began teaching children at St. Stephen's Community House in Columbus. St. Stephen's is sponsored by the Christ Child Society, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to serving needy inner-city children. Currently, Sr. Edith resides at the Motherhouse in Columbus.