

Sr. George Ann Fosmire, OP – 60 Year Jubilee

Sr. George Ann Fosmire, OP, is celebrating the 60th jubilee of her Profession as a Dominican Sister of St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, Ohio. She attended public elementary and high schools in Greenfield, Massachusetts. As a student at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut, she first encountered the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs. They represented such powerful examples as educators and as spiritual models that she entered the Novitiate in Columbus after two years.

“As a child, I had an inclination for the spiritual life, and, while I did not have any formal religious classes, I started to feel a call to greater spirituality in high school. In college, I thought more about religious life and decided that I wanted to do something useful with my life.” When Sister confided her life dream to a Dominican Sister who was a friend and also an Albertus faculty member, the Sister encouraged her.

“I never thought of teaching as the Dominicans did, nor of saving my soul. I just had a feeling,” Sister says. “My parents were never religious, and when I told them that I wanted to join the Dominicans, they thought that I was crazy. They had to go visit the Dominicans because they did not know what religious life was all about.”

After 60 years of religious life, Sr. George Ann would not change anything about her choice. “You commit yourself and you do the best that you can,” Sister says. Sister points out that Mass and chanting the Office are important parts of her spiritual life.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in art from the College of St. Mary of the Springs and her master’s in art from the University of Notre Dame. In 1948, she received her first teaching assignment, a class of third-graders at St. Vincent Ferrer School in New York City. Over the years, Sr. George Ann taught art in elementary schools in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. As a high-school art teacher, she served at St. Mary’s, New Haven, Connecticut, and at Bishop Watterson, Columbus, Ohio. She was vice-principal of St. Mary’s in New Haven from 1969 until 1977. From 1985 through 1990, Sr. George Ann cared for her terminally ill mother, taught art in kindergarten through eighth grade at the parish school, and worked as a parish volunteer. In 1990, she began serving in the Registrar’s Office at Albertus Magnus College. In 2007, Sister moved to the Motherhouse, where she ministers as a volunteer.