

Reflections on the Life of Sister Maureen Halloran

FUNERAL MASS AT CARITAS CHRISTI, MARCH 29, 2023



Sister Maureen grew up in Bridgeville, Pa where she was the only child of Edward and Florence Halloran. She belonged to Saint Agnes Parish and went to Elizabeth Seton High School. She entered the community in the famous holy year group of 1950. In her pastor's recommendation we read: "She will be an asset to any community." And another priest friend wrote: "She may be rated among the purest and best of Mother Mary's children."

Maureen got her first diploma in nursing at Providence Hospital in Beaver Falls. She later earned a BSN from Duquesne University and an advanced degree in Guidance from

Duquesne and a MA in Public Management from Carnegie Mellon.

She spent her nursing career in these hospitals: Providence, Pittsburgh, Presbyterian, and Mercy. As we heard last night she established the first Coronary Care Unit in the city of Pittsburgh! She had specialties in obstetrics, critical care, coronary care and public property management. One of her colleagues said of her, "She is a quiet, capable administrator." and another said, "She's a dynamic, extremely capable nurse." Looking at her resume, it's hard to believe she accomplished all of it, our quiet unassuming Maureen!

While working at Mercy, she coordinated a project that raised funds and sent medical equipment to Nicaragua. She got 16 regional hospitals to contribute to the project. When at Pittsburgh Hospital, she was active in the Leukemia Society and rode on the hospital's float in the St. Patrick's Day parade as Miss Smiling Irish Eyes.

I would guess that one of her most challenging jobs was as the Properties Project Manager where she coordinated the moves and schedules and permits of those at Mercy who were occupying or vacating the various areas as hospital renovations took place. One line of her job description said: "Functions as an intermediary in all problems and disputes between the hospital, the architects, the contractors and others." That doesn't sound like an amusing job! But Maureen was often known for her smile!

She was also a Nursing Supervisor, an instructor of nurses, a clinical specialist, and the Director of Critical Care Nursing Services at various times in her career.

I knew her as someone who loved her family and friends and the community. She enjoyed being at the ocean where her friends, the Eichers had a lovely beach house and were wonderful hosts. She also was dedicated to the Ministry of Healing at Mercy, where she greeted families and patients at Sunday Masses.

A year before her golden jubilee, Maureen had a very serious automobile accident. She worked hard to recover from that and was able to join her group for the jubilee celebration, but was left with some residual physical problems.

Last night, as part of the Responsorial Psalm we sang "My soul searches for you. Your love is finer than life." We know that you now enjoy the reality of those words. May you rest in peace, Maureen.

- Sister Vivien Linkenhauer