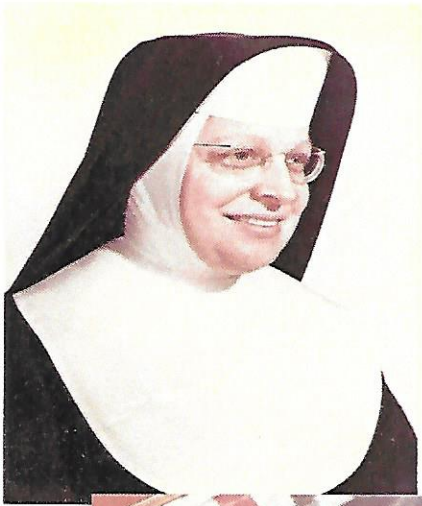


Sister M. Gregoria Bernott

August 18, 1920 – August 22, 2013



Secular Name: Irene
Entrance: September 12, 1937
Birth: Grand Rapids, MI
Parents: Anthony and Marcella Bernatos
Siblings: Alex, Cezaria (Sr. Marcelline), Helena, Fr. Albert, Vincent, Fr. Ernest
Elementary School: SS Peter and Paul, Grand Rapids, MI
High School: St. Francis Academy, Pittsburgh, PA
Higher Education: B.A. Education, Duquesne, M.A. Reading, University of Detroit

Ministry:

Sister Gregoria spent 40 years teaching in various parish elementary schools staffed by our community. Her longest tenure was 25 years at SS Peter and Paul in Grand Rapids, MI. Additionally, she taught at St. Gabriel for nine years while also serving as our community organist. Early on, she had multiple grades in a single classroom, not unusual in the early years of the congregation.

At age 63, Sister Gregoria began a second career, applying her organizational skills in the archives department as well as substitute teaching in our RTR program. A life-long learner, she also taught herself computer skills, so in her late 70's, she was able to return to her home parish to assist with the parish census.

Sister Gregoria's love of music was paramount in her life and she was a gifted musician. In addition to serving as motherhouse organist, she and Sister Rosalie taught Gregorian chant to many of the younger sisters. Never losing her love of music even in retirement, Sister could often be found playing her keyboard and even attempting to learn classical guitar.

At her 65th Jubilee celebration, Sister Gregoria exclaimed, "Living the Franciscan life of prayer and service to others has been enriching and rewarding."

*"I will sing of steadfast love and justice;
to you, O Lord, I will make music."*