

CHERISHED MEMORIES

Margaret Poyer was born in 1925 in Los Angeles California. She attended St. Paul the Apostle School in Los Angeles where she was educated by the Daughters of Mary and Joseph. She graduated from Immaculate Heart High School in 1943 and entered with the DMJs in September 1943. She and Mary Louise (Immaculata) Ottman were the first two Americans to join the DMJ community.

After several years of teaching, Paula was appointed the Novice Mistress of the new Novitiate opening in Palos Verdes in 1960. She served as Novice Mistress for about 3 years. In the mid 70's, Paula left the community to continue another life as Margaret Poyer/Trembley but always remained close to the DMJs.

For March Days 2017, Sr. Nora Agnes (our last San Francisco connection) generously drove Paula to Palos Verdes to participate in the celebration of our 200 years. As we participated in our meetings, Paula spent the hours engrossed in the plethora of documents, photos and scrapbooks from the DMJ archives. The whole weekend was a deeply moving experience for Paula (Margaret) and all the DMJs. Below is the email from Paula which expresses the richness of the weekend for her.

Dear Sisters,

How can I attempt to express in words what these last few days have meant to me! The entire experience in meeting all of you has been almost overwhelming. It was wonderful to meet all of you again and to re-connect with the past. As you well know, the past shapes and prepares us for the future. I had time on Saturday to review, to see how God's hand has gently beckoned me to follow where He pointed, waited for me to follow or take the next step, and protected me when the path became scary. He surrounded me with unimaginable love as each day became years and then decades.

Each of you has been part of my life in a very special way, and for that I am deeply grateful. I thank God for you, for your encouragement and your love, and for the lessons you have taught me, and your prayers.

I pray that as we continue to advance in age and grace, we remember “our roots” and with joy and gratitude praise the wisdom of the One who is calling us forward. From the day of my Clothing, when I received the habit into my arms, I have kept the words of the Clothing Ceremony imbedded in my heart: O my Jesus. Be my strength and my support on the path to which your love is calling me.

(March 2017)

