

Pioneer Hall of Fame: Sister Mary John (Margaret A.) Harvey, class of 1944



Sister Mary John Harvey '44 is being recognized as a member of the Pioneer Hall of Fame due to her life of service and leadership within The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, which is located in East Peoria.

Sister Harvey attended both Thomas Metcalf School and U-High. While at U-High, she became a member of the National Honor Society and achieved the distinction of being class salutatorian. Her opportunities and work at U-High meshed very well with her chosen vocation. Her solid math and science courses gave her a firm foundation for her pharmacy studies and work. She received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Creighton University (Omaha, NE), completed a Master's degree in Philosophy at The Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.) and a Master's degree in Counseling and Guidance at Illinois State University. Sister Harvey has served as a pharmacist at OSF St. Francis Medical Center (Peoria) and pharmacology instructor at the Medical Center's School of Nursing. Sister Harvey's two years of Latin at U-High were invaluable as the Catholic Mass and many of its prayers were said in Latin. Her high school music fundamentals class enabled her to read music, transpose scores, teach hymns to her fellow sisters, and play accompaniment on the organ. Her participation in orchestra, chorus and the senior play taught her how many individual talents working together can produce a result better than the sum of the parts. Sister Harvey's teachers were role models in exhibiting individual interest, showing patience, and holding attention on the topic at hand. During her time at U-High, she discovered she wanted to teach – a positive trait as she has extensively taught new sisters the life of dedication to God and service to the sick and poor.

As a member of The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, Sister Harvey's primary focus is healthcare. To assist in meeting that end, the Order owns and operates seven hospitals, six of them in Illinois. In addition to her pharmacist work and pharmacology instruction, during her 63 years of service with the Order, she has spent many years in the 1960's and again since 1994 as a teacher and director of a special program for new members of her religious congregation. Since 1972, she has also been either a Council Sister or the Major Superior of the governing body for the Community of Sisters. This group is also the governing board for all OSF Healthcare Boards; certain very important decisions regarding OSF corporate works are reserved for this highest Board.

Congratulations to Sister Mary John Harvey on her 2008 induction into the University High School Pioneer Hall of Fame!