



Margaret Rose Smith

April 28, 1929 - April 28, 2017

Margaret Rose Smith, 88, from Jupiter, Florida, died at home on Friday, April 28th, lovingly cared for and surrounded by her children. A woman of unwavering faith and limitless love, Mrs. Smith, born as the only child to Jennie and August Cepon in 1929, welcomed eight children, twenty-one grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren into her loving embrace. A graduate of the Waukegan, Illinois Holy Child high school, Mrs. Smith matriculated to Rosemont College and finished her college education at Marquette University, where she met and married the love of her life, Charles John Smith, Jr. Matriarch of the Smith family, Margaret was married to her husband, Charlie, for close to sixty years. Together they were the parents of eight children: Margaret Smith Crocco, Charles John Smith III, Anne Elizabeth Smith, Joan Smith Myers, Aileen Smith Dooley, Peter Royer Smith, Mary Catherine Smith Nietzel, and Mary Christine Smith. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren affectionately call her Nana. Her devotion to the Catholic Church, its theology, and its scriptures took her to Fordham University where she continued her studies in theology. With her daughters enrolled at the Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, New Jersey, Mrs. Smith began a career in teaching as a volunteer in the Theology Department before becoming Department Chair and, later, Oak Knoll's first lay principal. Her trailblazing influence on and encouragement of young women through her teaching, leadership, and mentorship was legendary. Margaret's life will live on in the memories of the many people whom she loved and who loved her.

She has taught us that strength and happiness begin with a consistently strong character, a generous soul, devoted relationships, unshakeable faith, and a passion to not simply live life but to pursue it with great purpose and joy. We mourn the loss of our mother, grandmother, friend, and colleague, but are blessed by the legacy she has left. We are comforted with the knowledge that she has joined her adoring husband, Charlie, and her sweet granddaughter, Jenny. God bless them all. A mass of Christian Burial will be held in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 13591 Prosperity Farms Road, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on Saturday, May 6 at 10 AM. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to: The Loxahatchee Club Educational Foundation 1350 Echo Drive, Jupiter, Florida 33458.

Tribute Wall



“ *Margaret Rose Smith*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *As soon as I read the news of Margaret's death, I wanted to send my sincere condolences to her entire family, but especially to the two I had the joy of teaching: Cathy and Christi. Then also to all the others I came to know during my years in the Lower School at Oak Knoll. Indeed, those years were the best! Although I am from Chicago and not Waukegan, I meet the "heartland" qualification Sister Tobie mentioned (and I second everything she has written). I was always proud to be at least that closely associated with Margaret's beginnings, and I was always so impressed with her warmth, compassion, insights and vision. A superb educator, she was an even better human being. She was fully imbued with our SHCJ spirit, and we were always confident of her leadership. Be assured of my continuing prayers as you mourn the passing of this outstanding woman!*

Terri MacKenzie - Chicago, IL - friend - May 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Dear members of Margaret's family, colleagues and friends, Oh how I wish we could all be together these days! What stories we could share My connections with Margaret have all to do with Holy Child education and Oak Knoll in particular. Margaret and I graduated from the same Holy Child high school in Waukegan, IL. Those of us from that area and from that high school often refer to it as The Heartland and to ourselves as women of integrity, hard work, strong values and yes, strong opinions. Margaret could have been president of our club, if we ever had one. Many years after our Waukegan school days Margaret and I found ourselves at Oak Knoll together. At first she was teaching in the theology department and serving as its chairperson. I, too, taught in theology and was the only member of the upper school's art department. That was the beginning for the two of us together. Not long after, Margaret was appointed as Principal of the upper school. I must say she was as the happy recipient from Sister Moya of a fabulous faculty. Those were the days of American and European Studies-of many interdisciplinary projects, trips and intense and productive planning meetings. But what a grand time we had! Margaret was a full and encouraging participant. We did come up with what many a principal might have called a looney idea but she always gave us the go-ahead and in the end, I don't remember even a single idea going bad. Of my now many years in education, mostly in the classroom, my years at Oak Knoll were the best. Yes, the best. The spirit, at Margaret's design, was one of creativity, integrity, faith, initiative, critical thinking. And thank goodness this was before anyone thought STEM was a good idea. Long live the liberal arts! Oak Knoll, being a Holy Child school, existed and was inspired by the educational philosophy of Cornelia Connelly and continued by members of the SHCJ and their colleagues. There were many more Sisters at that time! but we were strongly aware of our colle

Tobie Tondi - San Diego, CA - May 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ I will forever be grateful you shared the gift of your Mom, Margaret Smith, with me. Like it was yesterday, I remember a 1971 conversation in the Theology area at Oak Knoll (overlooking the cafeteria) when I was distraught that our family was moving to Illinois . Seven years later, having graduated from college, I sat across from your Mom in the Principal's office. What set your Mom apart was her empathy, the deep sense I felt of being seen and heard in her presence. Long before emotional intelligence was in vogue, your Mom modeled it. Margaret Smith continues to inspire me as I passionately live and love as a mother, wife, daughter, chaplain, coach, and priest.

Kathleen Gibbons Schuck - Blue Bell, PA - student - May 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ To the family of Margaret, Please know how much your mom touched our lives over the last 15 years. We were very blessed to have had Margaret as a dear friend. Her passion for things important to her, her smile, her curiosity, and her quick wit, brought true joy and peace to me every time I was in her presence. I will never forget my first encounter with your mom. I was invited to meet her at her attorney's office. In preparation for the our discussion, her attorney requested that I provide my curriculum vitae. I promptly sent it along, updating it with my latest accomplishments and highlighting past achievements. I felt fairly confident that I'd dazzle Margaret with my Marine Corps feats of courage and leadership, my Duke degree, or my experiences in finance. The day arrived and I waited patiently in her attorney's waiting area, rehearsing my exploits in the hope that I would really dazzle her. Finally, my time came to meet Margaret in her attorney's board room. After a brief hello, Margaret looked me right in the eye and her first words to me were, "Father Giles Hayes says that you are a young man of the highest integrity and intelligence." Well, I nearly fell off my chair. I also re-learned an irreplaceable lesson. Your mom reminded me that "value" is measured much less by personal exploit and much more by the quality of one's character and how they conduct themselves during those times when candidly, no one's likely looking. I was certainly no angel at Delbarton School, but I tried my best to be a good person and to live according to the principles of selflessness, humility, honesty, unrelenting curiosity, loyalty and hard work. Apparently, Giles was watching and years later, he shared his impressions with your mom. I will dearly miss you, Margaret. Having you consider me a friend is one the greatest gifts I will ever receive. God Bless you. Sincerely, Scott C. Barber

Scott Barber - North Palm Beach, FL - Friend - May 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM