



Sister M. William Mc Govern FDC

April 16, 1937 - April 6, 2023

Sister Mary William Mc Govern passed away peacefully surrounded by her Sisters at St. Joseph Hill convent on Holy Thursday April 6, 2023.

She was born Mary Margaret McGovern in then - Richmond Memorial Hospital on April 16, 1937. She lived in Great Kills and attended St. Clare School for elementary grades and graduated from St. Joseph Hill Academy High School.

Sister entered the novitiate of the Daughters of Divine Charity on August 15, 1955, taking the name Sister Mary William. She graduated from Fordham University with both Bachelors and Master's degrees in English.

Her first teaching assignment in 1958 was in St. Joseph Hill Academy High School. Over the years, she taught French, British Literature, and Advanced Placement English, served as faculty advisor of the school newspaper, the yearbook, and Student Council. In 1966, she was asked to establish a Guidance Department at the Academy and served as its first director.

In 1971, she became the Provincial Secretary of St. Joseph Province, a post she held for six years. Following that she returned to St. Joseph Hill Academy where she continued teaching English as well as instituting a course in journalism.

She served on the Provincial Council of the Congregation for eight years, then served as the Provincial. Over the years she was chosen six times to represent the Sisters at their international General Chapter, held every six years at the Congregation's Generalate, first in Vienna and then in Rome.

In 1996, after completing her first term as Provincial, she became the co-director of Development for the Province, with the responsibility of raising funds to support the elderly and infirm Sisters. During this time, she moderated the Daughters of Divine Charity Associate Program in the United States, taking it from a membership of one to being a wide-ranging group in all areas of the country where the Sisters served. In 2008, she was again named Provincial of St. Joseph Province. In 2012, when St. Joseph Province, based at St. Joseph Hill on Staten Island, joined with two other Provinces of the Congregation - one based in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and one in Akron, Ohio - she was chosen to be the first Provincial Superior of the newly formed Holy Family Province, based at St. Joseph Hill convent.

After overseeing the construction of a new convent for the Sisters at St. Joseph Hill, who had been living in a retrofitted school building, she was faced with the challenge of rebuilding the original convent building, which the Sisters has acquired in 1919 and which had been heavily damaged by an arson fire in 2013. During the course of renovations, she oversaw the opening of St. Joseph Retreat Center. When her term as Provincial expired, she became President of St. Joseph Hill Academy. She served on the board of St. Joseph Hill Academy and continued working in the Development Office of the Daughters of Divine Charity.

She was predeceased by her father, William A. McGovern, her mother, Marie McGovern, her brother William A. McGovern, M.D., and her nephew William McGovern. She is survived by her niece Laura McGovern Olszewski, her

grandniece Sarah, and her grandnephew Christian, as well as all her Sisters in Holy Family Province.

Visiting for Sr. William will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Hill Convent, 850 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, New York.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at the Convent Chapel at 10:00 a.m., Bishop Edmund Whalen will be Officiating. Following the Mass Sister will be laid to rest in Resurrection Cemetery. Contributions in Sister's memory can be made to The Daughters of Divine Charity 850 Hylan Blvd. Staten Island NY 10305

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **12**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph Hill Convent
850 Hylan Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10305

Service

APR **13**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Hill Convent
850 Hylan Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10305

Tribute Wall



“ *Sister M. William Mc Govern FDC*

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *Very inspirational to me.
I was her student. Then became an associate of the Daughters of
Divine Charity under her leadership. Will miss you sister
tremendously. May the Good Lord Rest your soul. You've earned it.*

Patricia O'Neill Marshall - April 11, 2023 at 09:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Sister M. William Mc Govern FDC.*



April 11, 2023 at 09:30 PM



“ *As many alumnae will agree, Sister William was the face of SJHA
for a long time.*

Antonia Lewandowski - April 11, 2023 at 01:52 PM