

Sister Regina Finnegan, SND

January 11, 1922 – August 29, 2013





I was snowed in at the convent and Sr. Regina came down the convent steps in jeans and a sweat shirt and I said, “You can't wear that you are a nun!” Well she told me that she could wear that . I ended up cooking dinner and eating dinner with the other nuns who taught me.

She was the best. May she rest in peace.

Meredith Murphy Krechmer '79

Sr. Regina had a vision for Notre Dame like no other. She was an excellent administrator, teacher, mentor and friend to all who knew her. Hopefully Notre Dame will continue the tradition of excellence she worked so hard to achieve in "her girls". She is remembered with love and respect.

Heather Beckman Erwin '90



May God Bless Sister Regina, she was a wonderful and caring leader for Notre Dame. Everyone loved her, may she rest in the peace of the Lord.

Barbara Panichell Palmerio '57

She was one of my favorite people. She stood by with her arm in mine, cheering on the soccer team. She offered kind, keen, and pointed, yet always encouraging advice. She was the epitome of a leader, cheerful, positive, yet direct. She cared deeply for her students, and saw them and their parents through any impediments to their success. In all seriousness and honesty, to me, she was as close to a saint as I ever met.

Joe Nangle

My high school principal was steely, formidable, kind, intelligent, generous, a natural leader and businesswoman who spoke softly, never backed down and had a rare but killer smile. She taught me and so many girls at Notre Dame how to be a woman, how to be a person and how to be an adult. We were lucky to have her in our lives; she will be very missed.

Maria Aspan



Sister Regina served as a wonderful role model for the young women in her care at the Academy. From praying all night in the Chapel on Prom nights for the safety and well being of her students, to her constant thanks to the Mothers and all who did any work for the school for their contributions of time, talents and resources, Sister Regina conveyed that each life has purpose and value. We will all fondly remember Sister surveying the campus with her assistant, Sasha.

Mari Connolly

What a wonderful woman she was...what a caring presence in so many lives! Sister Regina was a unique blend of humility and strength of character (plus a hint of Irish mischief). She will long be remembered.

Emily C. Riley



I will always remember Sr. Regina standing in the back of the gym during religious services with her eyes shut and arms upraised! She was so strong and so sure. I am lucky to have known her.

Anne Warden Shannon, MD '86

My first lesson in how to work with men was from Sister Regina. Watching her "manage" the fathers, grandfathers, husbands, male teachers and young boyfriends was enlightening and a roadmap in how to succeed in business and life. She rarely failed in getting exactly what she needed for her girls and the Academy. Watching Sister Regina as a student and then as an adult was a joy as well as a lesson in executive leadership....strategy, intelligence, relationships, intuition, respect, courtesy and kindness, she had it all. She makes Sheryl Sandberg look like a novice!!

D'Arcy Foster Rudnay, Class of 1973



Sister Regina was full of energy & had such a big heart. I will never forget her kindness to my daughters & myself. She has well earned her rest and reward to be with her Creator.

Regina Flanagan

Sister Regina offered me a partial scholarship so that I would be able to afford attending Notre Dame Academy. Unfortunately, even with the partial scholarship, my family was still not able to afford to send me to Notre Dame. So, Sister met with my parents, who told her how much I wanted to go to Notre Dame. She then graciously offered to give me a full scholarship.

I am forever grateful for her generosity and am convinced it changed the course of my life. Thank you, Sister Regina, for your kindness. It will never be forgotten.

Dr. Margarete Landwehr



May God enjoy Sr. Regina as much as I always did. Feel like I've lost a second Mom.

Charlotte Hyer

When I was little I would spend Good Friday at the convent. We would go to the Abby for services then home for dinner. After dinner, I would dye the Easter eggs for the sisters.

Nancy E. Willard '86



When I think of Sister Regina the picture before my eyes is that of a woman small in stature with a big smile that spreads throughout her being; bright shining eyes that reflect the brightness of her inner being.

Sister Regina believed and lived the teaching of St. Julie Billiart. She gave her all to her God and the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Loretta S. Hartnett

It was an honor to be a member of her staff. The time, just four years, were the best of my teaching career. I thank God daily for all the times she nudge me to do things I never imagined I could do, for what she taught by example and gifts gave me.

Mary Ann Crane
Former faculty member 1991-1995



SR. REGINA FINNEGAN
Principal

Sister Regina was such a special person, and knowing her was a privilege and has been one of my fondest memories of Notre Dame. I think of her very often when I see one of our three cats and recall the heartwarming memories of the time that my mother and she rescued them from the Mansion's laundry room dryer vent.

I kept Sister Regina updated on how the kittens were doing, and was thrilled to be able to bring them to the ND Blessing of the Animals. For Christmas, Sister Regina gave me a small statue of a snowman holding a box of three kittens labeled "Free Kittens." I knew that this event meant as much to her as it did to me.

Lisa Ulmer

Sister Regina was One of a Kind.

She was the Grandmother of the girls who attended Notre Dame. She watched over and cared about each and every one of them as only a Grandmother could and would. They were all HER girls. The wonderful and loving Sisters of Notre Dame led by Sister Regina made Notre Dame a community.

Thank you Sister Regina for sharing with my family and me your wisdom and goodness. We are much better for it.

Sue Messner and family (Jenn '99)



Thousands of women around the world are better people - kinder, smarter, stronger, more faithful - because of her.

Morgan Bracken Van Arsdall '94

Thank you, Sister Regina, for giving of yourself
& leaving an amazing legacy in so many NDA
women's lives. May you rest in peace always!

Tilly Valls McFadden



Sister Regina made such a huge impact on every student, parent and staff at NDA. I am so honored to have known her - so many memories - with Heidi by her side. "...and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest. ..."

Maggie Cappelli

Sr. Regina was one of the most positive people I have ever met. She personified what a strong, accomplished woman was, so inspiring for the young women at Notre Dame. Godspeed, Sr. Regina.

Candy Kane



I remember the first day she came to ND. Not a day ever went by that she wasn't exceptional- she made every one a better person. Our hearts are deeply grateful to have known her.

Bonnie Cotter

I remember the year she taught Algebra- not my strongest subject- and how patient she was while I as not...and her sweet German Shepherd, who was always 2 steps behind. Rest in Peace.

Lisa Codario



“I’m sorry Mr. Small, but the tie has to go.”

Sister Regina was the best! Many fond memories of her and the care she showed during my student days there (Class of '73). Rest in peace Sister Regina.

Barbara Jean Rankin

Sr. Regina was chair of Trinity Board of Trustees when I became Trinity's president, and she is one of the main reasons why Trinity thrives today --- we remember our beloved alumna, trustee, board chair and SND exemplar with gratitude and great fondness. And I personally remember her as my unparalleled mentor and steadfast friend. Thank you for everything, Regina!

Pat McGuire



I met Sr. Regina in 1970 when she became the principal of Notre Dame Academy. She hired me, a recent college graduate, to teach in the English department. I had the opportunity to see a very special woman catapult a school from 130 girls into a very fine academic institution with an enrollment of over 500 students. I learned very quickly that she was an astute business woman, a dedicated educator, a compassionate principal, a wonderful friend.

Patricia Maguire Morris

Thank you! I remember having to sit in the Mansion waiting for my dad to pick me up and Sr. Regina would always check on me and bring me crackers if he was really late. Her love of her girls knew no bounds.

Bridgette Hagerty

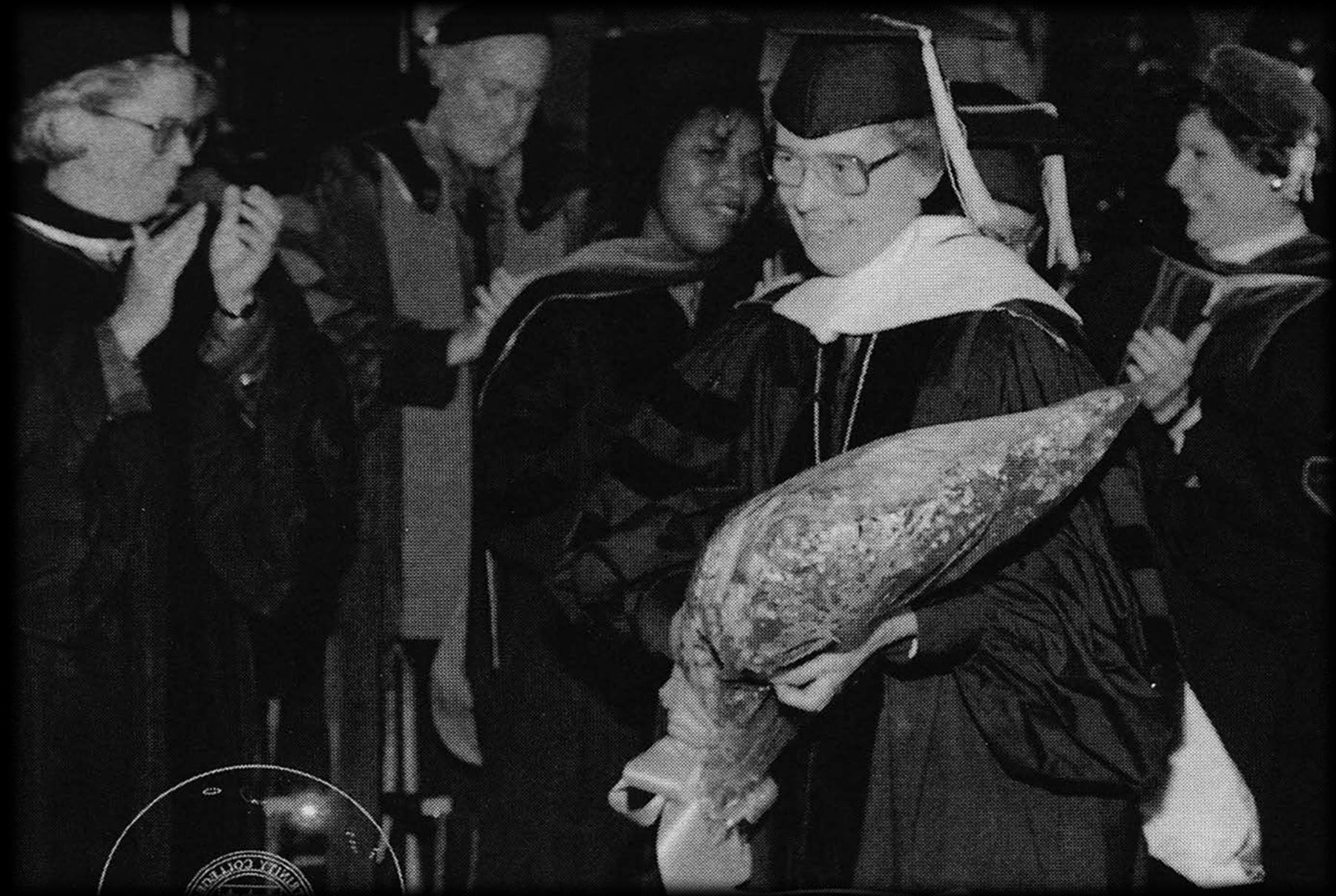


Sister Regina was nothing less than remarkable on so many levels. We were lucky to have her! And now, ND will be lucky to have her in heaven watching over everyone --- and guiding the future of ND once again!

Megan McGowan

Sr. Regina told my dad to "bite his tongue"
when he jokingly asked her "when ND would
go co-ed."

Jennifer Tillett



I think of her often when I need a reminder that it is possible to be both strong and kind as a leader.

Katharine McCormick '94

Sister Regina inspired each of us, whether student or parent, to be all we could be and all we should be, while gently encouraging us toward simplicity and gentleness. How blessed we are to have her in our lives.

Maryanne Bracken Quinn



Sister Regina gave me a chance and a choice. I will never forget her kindness to me and am forever grateful to have the opportunity to go to school at Notre Dame where I learned so much and made lifelong friends! I always remember her saying that to whom much is given much is expected and I have always tried to live my life that way give back. Her intelligence was a such a gift but her kindness to me changed my life.

Cathy Allen

