



Society of the Sacred Heart
U.S. Province

For Immediate Release
Pending approval

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**Educator Claire Kondolf, RSCJ,
Dies in Albany**

Religious of the Sacred Heart Claire Kondolf died January 18, at Teresian House in Albany, New York. An outstanding school administrator who was always willing to share her time and talent – and always with a smile – Sister Kondolf will be remembered in a Mass of Christian Burial at 1:30 on Thursday, January 23 in the chapel at Teresian House. Visitation will be one hour prior to the funeral. Burial will be at the Society of the Sacred Heart cemetery at Kenwood.

Claire Teresa Kondolf was born July 11, 1924 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania to Mathias and Claire Kondolf. She was predeceased by her parents and two brothers, M. Richard Kondolf and Karl Q. Kondolf. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Helen Kondolf and several nieces and nephews. She entered the Society of the Sacred Heart at the Kenwood Convent in Albany, New York on September 8, 1947. She professed her first vows March 8, 1950 at Kenwood and made her final vows at the Society of the Sacred Heart motherhouse in Rome on July 29, 1955. She once said her vocation was her life: “It has made my life God’s life.”

Lively, inquisitive, forward thinking and fun-loving she enjoyed conversation and was a great entertainer and story-teller. She made deep and lasting friendships and was loyal to her friends. She will be missed by her family, other Religious of the Sacred Heart and the caring staff at Teresian House.

Sister Kondolf began her education ministry at the Convent of Sacred Heart in New York City in 1950. She also taught in the Sacred Heart Schools in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania (Overbrook); Boston (Newton Academy); and Bethesda (Stone Ridge, 1955-63) before becoming assistant superior and treasurer for her Sacred Heart community in Bethesda in 1961 to 1963. From 1963 to 1971, she served as treasurer and director of development at Newton College of the Sacred Heart (now part of Boston College). From 1971 to 1978, she was director of development and assistant principal at Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Miami. She became headmistress at Forest Ridge Academy of the Sacred Heart in Seattle in 1978 and served until 1982, when she moved to Grand Coteau, Louisiana as headmistress of the Academy of the Sacred Heart there. While at the Academy in Grand Coteau, her love of horses prompted her to establish the popular and innovative equestrian program.

In 1987, she began editing the Society newsletter from the novitiate in Newton, Massachusetts, a task she continued for 15 years. In 1991, she went to Sprout Creek Farm, a ministry of the Society of the Sacred Heart, in Poughkeepsie as administrator. Later she lived in Washington, DC, where she served the Society as area director and volunteered at Living Wages, a non-profit providing

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education for people with little income. She said then, "Our concept of education has broadened," referring to Religious of the Sacred Heart. "We must educate people in all walks of life and in every part of the world if we are to make this a better place. Where and whatever we can give of ourselves, we must bring to others."

Sister Kondolf served as trustee for two Schools of the Sacred Heart: Doane Stuart in Albany and Stone Ridge in Bethesda.

"I suspect when people remember Claire they will immediately think of her warm smile which I always thought came from the deep joy that bubbled up from within," said a Religious of the Sacred Heart who loved her. "She loved life; she loved *her* life; she shared herself with remarkable generosity and simplicity. Maybe the last, best thing to say about her is that she was great-hearted."

Sister Kondolf earned a Bachelor of Arts in English, with a minor in philosophy, from Marymount College in Briarcliff, New York, and a Master of Arts in English and education from Manhattanville College. She also took courses at the University of Notre Dame and University of Omaha. She received a Fulbright Scholarship in 1982 for Asian Studies.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Society of the Sacred Heart, 4120 Forest Park Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63108.

The Society of the Sacred Heart was founded in France in 1800 by St. Madeleine Sophie Barat and brought to the Americas when St. Rose Philippine Duchesne arrived in St. Louis, Missouri in 1818. There are 320 members in the United States – Canada Province and nearly 2,300 professed members in 41 countries. Members of the Society are committed to discover, live and announce God's love through the service of education for transformation, in diverse ministries, particularly addressing the needs of children, young people, women and those in society who are marginalized.

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One heart and one mind in the Heart of Jesus.

Sr. Claire Teresa Kondolf

Claire Kondolf was born in Bryn Mawr, PA, on July 11, 1924. Her father was Mathias Richard Kondolf, an inventor and her mother, Claire Marie Kondolf. Claire was the youngest of three children. She had 2 older brothers Karl Q. Kondolf who died in September 2007, and M. Richard Kondolf who died in June, 1982

EDUCATION

Graduated from the Hawley School, Newtown, CN in 1942
BA Marymount College, 1946, major English, minor Philosophy.
MA Manhattanville College 1950, major English, minor Education.
Fulbright Grant, Fulbright (USA Program) Korea, Tokyo, Taipei, 1982
Sabbatical in Italy (Rome, Florence, Assisi, 1987
International Experience, Rome, Italy 1990.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

Entered the Society of the Sacred Heart at Kenwood, Albany, NY, March 1948
Pronounced First Vows at Kenwood, Albany, NY, March 8, 1950
Final Profession Mother House, Rome, July, 1955

MINISTRY

1950 – 1951 Convent of the Sacred Heart, 91st st. , New York, Elementary Teacher, English, Art and Writing .
1951 – 1953 Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Overbrook, PA, Middle School Teacher & Dean of Students, 7th and 5th Grades English, General Science, Drama
1953 – 1955 Newton Academy, Newton, MA , Dean of Students, Teacher, 9th & 6th Grades Drama
1955- 1963 Stone Ridge, Washington, DC Dean of Students, Teacher 9 & 10 Science & Drama
1963 – 1971 Newton College, Newton, MA, Treasurer, Director of Development, College Trustee
1971 – 1978 Carrollton School, Miami FL, Director of Development, Alumnae Director, Assistant Principal.
1978 – 1982 Forest Ridge, Bellevue, WA, Headmistress
1982 – 1987 Academy of the Sacred Heart, Grand Coteau, LA, Headmistress
1987 - Editor of the Society/ Province Newsletter – lived in Newton, MA at the Noviceship, Poughkeepsie, NY (Sprout Creek Farm), Washington, DC.
2003 Albany, NY Assistant in Development, Kenwood Convent
2006 Retired to Pax Christi Community, Kenwood
2007 Moved to Teresian House
Not mentioned on her resume sheet is the time in early 2000 when Claire lived in Montreal and administered at the RSCJ retirement facility.
Her special interests among others were Desk Top Publishing, Eastern Spirituality, New Cosmology, Travel and animals, particularly horses.