

**M**argaret Gorman, Ph.D. RSCJ, died on Tuesday, May 16th, 1995. A candidate for president of Division 36, a professor of psychology and theology at Boston College, a committed religious individual, and a passionate teacher, she is mourned and missed. Her friends compared her to the Energizer Rabbit; she kept going, and going, and going.... Her religious faith, eternal optimism about the goodness of people, and her deep commitment to her vowed religious life were her power pack. And she did move with power: From a cloistered convent, to the heart of the Military Industrial complex, to the development of a Professional School of Psychology. Margaret died as she would have chosen, at work. She was grading final exams at Boston College when she was taken ill and rushed to the hospital where she died.

Margaret Gorman was a native of Kingston, NY. She did her undergraduate work at Trinity College, and then entered the Catholic order, Religious of the Sacred Heart. Margaret received an M.A. in teaching from Fordham University and began her professional life of service, as high school teacher and principal for about 15 years, before she completed a

Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Catholic University.

Her doctoral dissertation, *General Semantics and Contemporary Thomism*, was published by the University of Nebraska Press with a forward written by S. I. Hayakawa. This work brought her to the attention of the armed forces and in 1962 she began giving monthly conferences and serving as a consultant on communications to the military. She overcame the rules of cloister, accompaniment (her order required she always be accompanied by another nun; the Army's rule was that she be escorted by a man of suitable rank), and tradition to become the first nun ever to be recruited into the US Army and Air Force. She had a civilian appointment with the rank equivalent to a two star General and consultant to the Army and Air Force which continued until her death.

Enthusiastic response to her work in the military brought her to the Department of Agriculture and ultimately to IBM. She was appointed to a lectureship at IBM's School of Management and brought her ethical perspective and values orientation to consumers and corporate officers.

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## In Memory of Margaret Gorman

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## In Memory

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With a grant from the Kennedy Foundation for research on moral and religious development, Sister Margaret began a study of Lawrence Kohlberg's theory of moral development and James Fowler's theory of faith development that shaped her professional thinking, consulting, teaching and writing. Her interest in the psychology of values, faith, and moral development infused her work. Her grounding in developmental theory and her commitment to a life of faith was joined by her passion for teaching and her celebration of the human spirit. As she once expressed it, "Down deep, all human beings are worthy of love and respect. I as an educator would like to spread that message."

She began her university academic life in 1959 as Chairwoman of the Psychol-

ogy Department at Newton College of the Sacred Heart. She also served as Newton College Director of the Division of Social Science and Religion and subsequently joined the Boston College faculties of psychology and theology in 1981.

Among her many accomplishments, Sr. Margaret was essential to the development of the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology (MSPP). She served continuously on the Board of Trustees since June, 1976 and was elected President for 17 of those years. She oversaw the development of the graduate school to a fully-accredited and well-respected school of professional psychology.

Division 36 was another source of Margaret's pride and pleasure. She had been an early and active player in the intellectual and political process that developed the original Catholic Psychological Association into the present ecumenical and inclusive organi-

zation now named "Psychology of Religion." It was part of her genuinely "catholic" sensibility to insist both that a critical attention to the spiritual and religious dimension of human life belonged at the heart of psychological inquiry, and that such an inquiry should be guided by an openness to truth wherever it appeared without sectarian or apologetic bias. With each APA convention she looked forward to the renewal of friendships, the challenges of ideas, and the energy of participants.

Margaret Gorman, Sister-Doctor-General-Psychologist-Academician's last words reportedly were, "The grades are on the desk." She completed much she set out to do, steadfastly held her commitments to her God and her vocation, and touched the lives of officers, colleagues, friends and students. Peace. ■