

**Sister Margaret Pierre McIver
1915-1992**

**"Whoever welcomes a little child because of me, welcomes me;
and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me.
Whoever is the least among you is the greatest." Luke 10:47**

Emily Genevieve (Gen) McIver was born to Peter and Margaret Ann McKenna McIver in Kinkora, Prince Edward Island, in April 1915. She was the fifth of thirteen children. She was twelve years old when her mother died.

After her mother died, Gen left school and assumed the household duties and care of her younger brothers and sisters. Living on a farm with no running water in the house was a challenge. As a young girl she must have wondered what would become of her life, yet she operated on a strong line of hope even then. At the age of sixteen, she returned to school since her father had married Annie McGarry who assumed the household labors. Gen felt insecure about returning to school, yet was clever with books and surprised herself in passing the entrance exam for the Teachers' College. After a year, she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph where she joined her two aunts Sisters Mary Charles and Mary Damian McIver and two cousins Sisters St. Hugh McIver and Georgetta Driscoll.

"Everyone loved Gen. We had fun skating, swimming, and we always had lots of cousins to have fun with," reflected Tina, Sister Margaret Pierre's sister. Sister Margaret Pierre loved her family, the community and the church. She became a fine teacher and taught first and second graders in St. Paul and Minneapolis, Waverly and Olivia, and in Grand Forks. After teaching 45 years she joined the staff at the Stillwater House of Prayer which provided a quiet and beautiful atmosphere in which people could pray and reflect.

In 1987, Sister Margaret Pierre became a member of Sisters Care which provides home assistance to handicapped people and the frail elderly. People were naturally drawn to her healing presence, and no matter how busy she was, Sister Margaret Pierre was always ready to do a favor for someone.

Jesus taught that to enter heaven we must become like little children. Sister Margaret Pierre was childlike, guileless, simple and caring. Her values and beliefs were evident in the way she lived. Her uncomplaining nature drew many into her friendship. Friends valued how she kept confidences, was hard-working, and had a marvelous sense of humor.

The last three years of her life were probably the most difficult as she struggled for physical balance while on kidney dialysis. A great Twins fan, she was on her way to a game when the doctor called saying he wanted to begin dialysis that afternoon. (She later told the doctor of her disappointment.) Dialysis was not considered extraordinary means and it gave her two good years of life . . . and Sister Margaret Pierre loved life. During these last years, she endeared herself to other dialysis patients and nurses by her gentle, loving ways.

Time came when she realized her quality of life was deteriorating. She decided to stop the dialysis. Although it was an agonizing decision, it brought her peace. As she patiently waited for death, she planned her funeral Mass -- a celebration of her life for all of us.

-- Sister Kathleen Roehl

Sister Margaret Pierre was preceded in death by her parents and step-mother and by a sister and four brothers:

Bernadine McEvoy
William McIver
Aden McIver
Joseph McIver
Cletus McIver

She is survived by five sisters and two brothers:

Eileen McAvinn, Ontario
Adele Coady, Prince Edward Island
Ita Smith, Ontario
Tina Kenny, Ontario
Teresa Rodgers, Prince Edward Island
Eugene McIver, Prince Edward Island
Justin McIver, Nova Scotia

She is also survived by her cousin Sister Georgetta Driscoll and by many nieces and nephews.

Sr. Margaret Pierre

HEALTH CARE DECLARATION
" LIVING WILL "

To my family, Doctors, and all those concerned with my care:

I, S. MARGARET PIERRE McIVER being an adult of sound mind, willfully and voluntarily make this statement as a directive to be followed if I am in a terminal condition and become unable to participate in decisions regarding my health care. I understand that my health care providers are legally bound to act consistently with my wishes, within the limits of reasonable medical practice and other applicable law. I also understand that I have the right to make medical and health care decisions for myself as long as I am able to do so and to revoke this declaration at any time.

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE MY FEELINGS AND WISHES REGARDING MY HEALTH CARE:
If I am terminally ill I want to be anointed. I want to die at Bethany Convent and have the Sisters pray with me and for me.
2. I PARTICULARLY WANT TO HAVE ALL APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE THAT WILL HELP IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:
I want to be kept comfortable. I want pain medication to control my pain even if it hastens my death. I want treatment started, but if there is no hope for recovery or improvements after 2 weeks, I want it stopped.
3. I PARTICULARLY DO NOT WANT THE FOLLOWING:
If my illness is terminal and I have a cardiac or pulmonary 'arrest', do not resuscitate (DNR). Also if I am not able to go to the hospital (Ramsey) for dialysis I want it discontinued. Unless I am a patient at St. Joseph's Hospital then I will continue it if the Dr. thinks it feasible.
4. I PARTICULARLY WANT TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING KINDS OF LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT IF I AM DIAGNOSED TO HAVE A TERMINAL CONDITION;
Kept comfortable by management and control of my pain and supportive care which includes comfort, hygiene, safe environment and emotional and spiritual support for myself and my family.
5. I PARTICULARLY DO NOT WANT THE FOLLOWING KINDS OF LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT IF I AM DIAGNOSED TO HAVE A TERMINAL CONDITION.
If my condition is terminal I do not want artificially administered sustenance. No tubes, please. I do not want my family and all those who care for me to feel that they have in any way caused my death by carrying out my wishes not to have life-prolonging treatment. If necessary to control my pain, an intravenous fluid may be administered.

6. I RECOGNIZE THAT IF I REJECT ARTIFICIALLY ADMINISTERED SUSTENANCE, THEN I MAY DIE OF DEHYDRATION OR MALNUTRITION RATHER THAN FROM MY ILLNESS OR INJURY. THE FOLLOWING ARE MY FEELINGS AND WISHES REGARDING ARTIFICIALLY ADMINISTERED SUSTENANCE SHOULD I HAVE A TERMINAL CONDITION;

I reject artificially administered sustenance.

7. THOUGHTS I FEEL ARE RELEVANT TO MY INSTRUCTION.

I want the Sisters to pray with me. Sprinkle Holy Water on me. I do not want an autopsy.

8. PROXY DESIGNATION;

None

June 4, 1991

June 13, 1991 DATE:

SIGNED: *Sr. Margaret Pierre Mc Luer*

STATE OF Minnesota

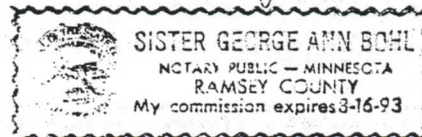
COUNTY OF Ramsey

SUBSCRIBED, SWORN TO, and ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE ME BY:

ON THIS 13th DAY June, 1991

NOTARY PUBLIC

Sister George Ann Bohl



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