

Sr. Margaret Patrice Slattery

Sr. Margaret Patrice Slattery has held important leadership posts at the University of the Incarnate Word and has received several awards and honorary doctorates but given the care and dedication with which she penned her two-volume work, *Promises to Keep*, being part of the story of Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word is what she treasures most.

Sister Margaret Patrice came from Incarnate Word Academy in her native St Louis, earned her bachelor's degree at Incarnate Word College and her MA from Marquette University. Her teaching career and chairmanship of the English Department was interrupted only by her studies at other universities: the doctorate at the Catholic University of America and a post-doctoral study at the University of Edinburg, Scotland.

Her return to teaching was followed by becoming Academic Dean upon the retirement of Sister Clement Eagan, CCVI, and then her appointment as President in 1972. Both positions came during periods of great transition in the church and the College. This included growing numbers of lay faculty and their participation in governance, changes brought by Vatican II, and coeducation in all departments and student life.

Sr. Slattery extended the reach of the campus with a lay Development Board and the expansion of the Board of Directors to Trustees with lay membership and the first lay chairperson, and participation by the students in many areas, including pace-setting membership on the Board of Trustees.

Meaningful change is never easy or comfortable, and the "we always did it this way" mantra required great patience, understanding, and determination. Other challenges Sr. Margaret Patrice included recruiting students and faculty, calls for greater inter-campus sharing, dealing with the need for new facilities and caring for aging campus structures.

Sr. Slattery retired from the presidency in 1985 and became Chancellor and President Emerita upon the arrival of Dr Louis J Agnese, Jr.

She received the Ford Salute to Higher Education for distinguished service, was awarded the Mirabeau B. Lamar Medal for Leadership in Learning by the Association

of Colleges and Universities in Texas, was honored by the San Antonio Express-News for leadership in education, was elected into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame, and has received two honorary doctorates. *Promises to Keep* has been recognized as an outstanding publication by the Texas Catholic Historical Society.

In 2007, Sr. Slattery celebrated her Diamond Jubilee marking her sixtieth year of service as an Incarnate Word Sister, her greatest title.