



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton

Joy in Christ
100 Jubilee
1912-2012

Jubilee 100 Biography Project

Biography of Sister Maureen Ryan UJ

Submitted by St. Edmund Parish, Edmonton

Sr. Maureen Ryan was very active at St. Edmund Parish during the 1970s. She looked after the meals for Rev. Jack Hamilton and Rev. Con Landrigan. Never wasting a morsel of food, she made sure that if they didn't eat all the leftovers one day, they would show up again the next day. Sr. Maureen was an avid Eskimo fan and enjoyed attending football games with Fr. Jack.

When the Ursuline convent down the street closed, Sister Maureen moved to the St. Joseph convent where she lived for a year. She then moved to the south side house but drove back and forth for seven years, no matter the weather. She loved ministering with Rev. Leo Cordeau and Sister Anna Cordeau and was always ready to do anything that needed to be done. Even in her 80s, when her health was visibly declining she was unstoppable and was energized by her time at the parish. On returning home she would put on her white cooking coat and bake an Irish tea cake "barm brach", to take to a shut-in elder in the Parish. Sister Maureen continued giving of herself at the Parish until two days before she was admitted to hospital where she remained until her death on September 4, 2004.

Sr. Maureen started the Parish "Pie Sales" to support a variety of Catholic organizations including St. Joseph Seminary, Newman Theological College, Development and Peace, and Catholic Social Services. The pies were prepared by students at St. Joseph High School and the sales were always very successful. Today the Parish continues the Pie Sale tradition started by Sr. Maureen.

Sr. Maureen was always a great supporter of the Catholic Women's League and on May 23, 2007, a Memorial Mass was held and the CWL dedicated their meeting room to her, naming it "The Sr. Maureen Ryan, UJ Room." In her honour, "Barm Brack" cake was served.

Sr. Maureen was an amazing example of a true missionary. She came to Canada in 1938 to be missionary. This she accomplished.