



**Eulogy of Sister Diana Malone, BVM**  
**Mary Frances Clarke Chapel, May 13, 2025**

Good morning and welcome. It is good to be together to celebrate the life of our Sister Diana Malone.

Diana Florence Malone was born in Chicago on May 6, 1935, the first child of Raymond and Philomena (Pettinato) Malone. Both parents were born in Chicago. Her father was of Italian and Irish descent; a printer, a sports fan, and a party-lover with a subtle, yet sly sense of humor. At a party celebrating 60 years of marriage, someone asked, "How long have you been married, Ray?" He jokingly replied, "Too long!" He died in 1995.

Diana's mother "Phil," as she was called by those who knew her, also was of Italian descent. She worked at Ray's printing press until opting to concentrate on her family after Diana was born. However, that did not mean giving up her position on the weekly bowling team or on her recreational volleyball team. Late in life, when her health began to fail, Phil moved to Marian Hall at Mount Carmel where she was loved by both the sisters and the staff. She died in 1999.

Diana's brother Charles "Chuck" completed the family. He was born in Chicago in 1947 and moved to Dubuque in 1993 shortly after his parents moved here. He died in 2015 at age 67.

Diana attended St. Callistus Elementary School and graduated from St. Mary High School, both in Chicago. After completing a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Mundelein College, she entered the BVM congregation on Sept. 8, 1956. She was received on March 19, 1957, professed first vows on Feb. 3, 1959, and lived 68 years as a BVM.

Diana's first mission was to Assumption High School in Davenport, Iowa, where she taught chemistry, physics, and mathematics for ten years. While at Assumption, she completed a master's degree in science education with a chemistry major from Notre Dame University in 1965. She earned a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Iowa in 1977.

In 1969, Diana joined the faculty at Clarke College, now Clarke University, at the invitation of the Chemistry Department Chair Sister Marguerite Newmann, BVM and Clarke President Sister Mary Benedict Phelan, BVM. During Diana's 47 years at Clarke, she served as professor, chairperson of the chemistry department, athletic director, and director of student activities.

Diana mentored elementary science teachers through the Clarke River Quest, a hands-on program that had teachers canoeing, hiking, and visiting the National Mississippi River Museum and Lock and Dam No. 11 when not peering into microscopes. Diana noted, "What I see are teachers who thought they could never say the word 'chemistry' now feeling comfortable . . . [talking] about the chemistry of water."

Diana believed strongly that the computer was an important tool for scientists. She served on the Computer in Education Committee for the American Chemistry Society. She spent a year doing research at the Technical Educational Research Center in Cambridge, Mass., on an interface for an IBM computer with chemical instruments. She worked with engineers in the IBM Educational Products Division in Boulder, Colo., to develop

hardware and software for experimentation in chemistry. She had previously worked to develop similar materials for the Apple computer, which included the publication of two manuals related to that project.

In 1989, Diana was invited to lecture at the Tenth International Conference on Chemical Education in Ontario, Canada. She spoke on her field of expertise: "Integrating Computer Technology Across the Chemistry Curriculum." Also in that year, Clarke nominated Diana for the Council of Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) 1989 Professor of the Year.

The Clarke University Center for Scientific Inquiry opened in 2013. With great anticipation of what could be achieved in the new facility, Diana addressed the students, "The research facilities, state of the art instrumentation and faculty expertise are ready for you to realize your dreams and goals . . . You have dreams and the freedom to bring these dreams to fruition. Just do it!"

Diana retired from Clarke after the fall semester of 2015 and the accolades followed.

BVM Sisters Diana Malone, Mary Lou Caffery and Marguerite Newmann laid the foundation for the [chemistry] department today. All of these women, and especially Diana in her years as chair, have stressed the importance of hands-on experience for students early in their academic career.  
Karen Glover, Clarke Emerita Professor of Chemistry

The Clarke University Chemistry Department prides itself on giving students hands-on experience throughout their undergraduate career. Long-time department chair Diana Malone, BVM, is the reason why that philosophy is in place. She is also the reason why it will remain at Clarke long after her retirement. . . She [leaves] behind a lasting legacy.

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Upon retiring, Diana was often asked what would be next for her. With a little of her dad's humor, Diana replied, "I'm 80 years old. Can't I just say nothing?" Nonetheless, a few months later, she started volunteering with DuRide, a Dubuque non-profit that provides a safe and personalized transportation option for seniors who are unable or do not wish to drive.

In 2022, Diana and Mary Lou Caffrey, BVM moved to Vista at Mount Carmel Bluffs after living together for 38 years on North Grandview in Dubuque. When Mary Lou moved to Gables last year, Diana, a faithful, loving friend, came to visit her every day.

"Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. . . You are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you" (Isaiah 43: 1, 4a). Ray and Phil Malone were people of deep faith who planted and nurtured the seeds of faith in Diana. Her faith in Jesus and her love for the BVM community carried her through life experiences that challenged her strength and courage. They carried her through the last days of her earthly life. Now she is home, reunited with her family, deceased friends, and BVM sisters in the presence of her loving God. Rest in peace and love, Diana, until we meet again.