



Margaret Crosby, S.D.S.

<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>August 14, 1929</i>
<i>Date of Commitment</i>	<i>May 20, 2001</i>
<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>July 10, 2014</i>

Margaret was born Anna Margaret Conroy on August 14, 1929 in Cornwall, Ontario, Canada. She was the third of six children born to Hilda MacDonald and Donald John Conroy. There were 3 boys and 3 girls. Her mother was a teacher and she remembers her father as being ill most of her childhood with rheumatoid arthritis. He died during her childhood. The names of her siblings are: Jack, MacClennan, Robert, Jean, and Frances, some of whom are still alive.

Margaret went to public schools in Cornwall. When she finished high school at 17 yrs. old she went to Montreal to find work. Living with her aunt for a short time before finding her own place, she found a job with the telephone company there. While employed at the phone company she saw an American Airlines ad looking for stewardesses. She interviewed for the job, was hired, and was sent to the United States to Fort Worth, Texas, where she was based.

When in Fort Worth, and while living with other American Airlines flight attendants, Margaret met Charles Perry Crosby (Charlie) who was to become the love of her life! By the time she met Charlie he had graduated from high school; enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an air mechanic; served time in the Philippines and Japan; and was back in Texas. He graduated from Texas A & M in 1951 after which he re-enlisted as a commissioned officer in the Air Force. In 1952 he flew as a B-29 navigator during the Korean War.

Margaret married Charles in Fort Worth, Texas, on Oct. 31, 1953 and they eventually had 5 children, while living a military life of numerous transfers. Their five children are: Judith Zarate (Roseville), Charles Jr. (Granite Bay), Camilla (Orangevale), Melanie Tuttle (Auburn), and Peter (Portola Valley), all of Northern California. During those earlier years of marriage Margaret was busy with 5 children as Charlie remained with the Air Force in various posts, including air reconnaissance during the Vietnam War, until he retired in September 1990 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He went to heaven in January of 2008.

Their time in California began in 1968. After establishing themselves in California Margaret began to pursue her education, getting her B.A. in English from Sacramento State in June of 1974, and her M.A. in English from Sacramento State in Jan. of 1976. She taught at the old Mercy High School for a while and then pursued an M.A. in Marriage and Family Counseling from the University of San Francisco, which was granted to her in May of 1981. Once licensed as an MFCC (Marriage, Family and Child Counselor) in 1984 Margaret established her own practice out of her home for 20 years and did pro bono work in response to referrals from former clients and the priests at Divine Savior parish in Orangevale.

As reported in the Sacramento diocesan newspaper, the Catholic Herald, on April 15, 2006:

"Eight years ago, in 1998 Crosby and her husband, Charles, were leaving morning Mass at Divine Savior Parish in Orangevale when their parochial vicar at the time, Salvatorian Father Neil Seidl, pulled them aside. What he did next would literally change their lives. He invited them to attend a lay Salvatorian retreat in Santa Cruz.

“One of the things I found I like about lay Salvatorians is they incorporate prayer, ministry and fun,” Crosby said. ‘The Salvatorians are so dedicated you just want to learn from them.’

The Crosbys joined 30 men and women serving as lay Salvatorians in the diocese.”

As further reported in the same article:

“Crosby has worked the past 20 years as a licensed marriage and family counselor since retiring as a Catholic high school teacher. She now takes pro-bono clients referred to her by former clients, priests and other lay Salvatorians.

‘I like blending spirituality and psychology, looking at the spiritual dimensions of people’s lives,’ Crosby said. ‘Once people start opening up to you, you see God in that person one way or another.’

For the Crosbys, prayer has become a powerful undercurrent seamlessly shaping their days. Whether attending morning Mass or weekly prayer group meetings, or packing up rosaries to mail to Salvatorian missions in Africa, Crosby said she finds herself ‘talking to God all the time.’

One of the aspects she likes best about being a lay Salvatorian is the group includes men, women, married and single persons.

‘We are all equal by our example to others doing what Jesus is telling us to do,’ Crosby said.

Being embraced in prayer by the Salvatorian community is an added blessing that became personal recently after Charles was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus.

‘There are Salvatorians on every continent and when the word goes out that someone is ill, you’ve got people from South America, Africa, the United States and Europe offering prayers,’ she said.”

Margaret and her husband supported the Salvatorian Seminary in Tanzania and, along with others, were acknowledged in a 2005 Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter for their “generous monetary support for the SDS Sisters anti-human trafficking project.”

Both Margaret and Charlie have been extremely active and generous parishioners of Divine Savior parish in Orangevale from the time it was begun in 1987. Margaret contributed much in the way of time, talent, and, not the least of which, her wit! She is a gentle soul and will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Morogoro Salvatorian Institute in Tanzania school. Friends are invited to attend the Holy Rosary Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 6PM and the Mass of Christian Burial Wednesday 12 Noon, all at DIVINE SAVIOR CATHOLIC CHURCH (9079 Greenback Lane, Orangevale). A celebration of her life will follow immediately. She will be interred with her late husband Charles at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon, CA

