

Mother Julia Moore

One of the six founding Sisters of the Federation in 1966, Julia Cecilia Moore was born on November 30, 1911, to Francis (Frank) Joseph Moore (d. 1938) and Julia Camilla Coughlin (d. 1965) in St. Thomas, Ontario.

Active in the St. Thomas community growing up, Cecilia was a summer lifeguard at Alma



College Pool, and served as recreational director at her Alma Mater St. Joseph's High School during her college years in the 1930s. The archive has a wonderful Red Cross award earned by Cecilia, illustrated with swimmers in turn of the century bathing costumes! Having obtained an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and French from the University of Western Ontario, Cecilia went on to obtain a high school assistant certificate in English and History from the Ontario College of Education in Toronto.

Cecilia entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London in 1935 at Sacred Heart Convent and received the habit and religious name of Sister M. Julia on August 25th, 1936. She professed her final vows on August 25th, 1941, in the Chapel of Sacred Heart

Convent in London, Ontario.

Sister Julia began teaching at St. Michael's School in London, with teaching assignments at Roman Catholic high schools in St. Thomas and Sarnia, during which time she completed a Master of Arts Degree in French at Laval University. She eventually became the principal at Catholic Central High School in London. After two years as a principal, Sister Julia was elected General Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, a position she held for twelve years, before serving four years as a general councillor. This was five years before the Second Vatican Council, a time of great change.

Assuming leadership of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sister Julia created a sacred space within the community for a new world to be born for religious women in the church. Her leadership had an impact on many aspects of the Sisters of St. Joseph's involvement in education, health care, social work, retreat work and missions in Peru and Northern Canada. Sister Julia was also named Health Care Coordinator of the community, serving five hospitals and two chronic care hospitals. She was the Superior of the community of Sisters at St. Joseph's Hospital, and a member of the pastoral care team, during which she studied theology and scripture during a sabbatical year at Regina Mundi College in Rome.

In 1979, Sister Julia returned to Mount St. Joseph where she directed retreats, and served as a spiritual director as well as an historian for the Congregation. Sister Julia's work entitled "The Sisters of St. Joseph. Beginnings in London Diocese. 1868-1878" was presented to the Canadian Catholic Historical Society in 1978 and published by the London Roman Catholic School Board.

Sister Julia died on October 5th, 1995. Her funeral mass was celebrated in Immaculate Conception Chapel, Mount St. Joseph, in London, Ontario.