

## **Sister Mary Reuter**

### **Prioress from 1989–1995**



Sister Mary Reuter was born on September 8, 1938, in Medicine Lake, Mont., the first of eight children born to Leo and Margaret Langenfeld Reuter. She spent most of her early life in Hastings, Minn. She entered Saint Benedict's Convent on September 12, 1957, became a novice on June 17, 1958, and made her first profession on July 11, 1959, and her final profession on July 11, 1962. Prior to entering Saint Benedict's Convent in 1957, she completed one year at the College of Saint Benedict. In addition to completing her B.A. at the College of Saint Benedict in 1964, she taught junior high school grades in various schools throughout the Diocese of St. Cloud, Minn.

In 1971, Sister Mary was appointed as subprioress, fulfilling that role for the next six years. From 1977–1982, she attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, where she completed a doctoral degree in formative spirituality. Following the completion of her doctoral studies, Sister Mary taught in the theology department at the College of Saint Benedict/St. John's University until she was elected prioress in 1989.

Early in her term as prioress, Sister Mary reinstated the Office of Community Planning and created the Office of Development and Communications, each with a new director. Among her priorities was working closely with the College of Saint Benedict in maintaining a joint relationship by creating the Joint Administrative Council, consisting of the leadership teams of both the convent and the college. Also, under her leadership, two dependent priories received the approval of the community Chapter to become independent—Mount Benedict in Ogden, Utah, and Saint Martin in the Bahamas.

Early in 1993, Sister Mary initiated Phase I of a visioning process for community planning with the help of a consultant firm. The community was led through the intricate process of developing a Comprehensive Facilities Plan, which was approved on March 12, 1994. While building and renovation plans were being implemented, Sister Mary's training in formative spirituality had prepared her for the task of continuing the community's spiritual development through the programs offered by the Lifelong Formation Committee.

After leaving the office of prioress in 1995, Sister Mary participated in the Wellsprings Renewal Program in Glens Falls, N.Y., for a semester, and as a visiting student at Emory University in Atlanta for another semester. When she returned to Saint Benedict's, she resumed her teaching in the theology department at the College of Saint Benedict until her retirement from the college in 2014, at which time she was named professor emerita of theology. She currently serves as a member of the initial formation team of directors and contributes her expertise in the spiritual programs of the community.