O'LEARY, Sister Anne Regina, daughter of the late Daniel P. and Anna Byrne O'Leary, died in Wheeling Hospital on Saturday, October 3, 2009.

She was born in Wheeling on September 14, 1912, and upon her baptism at Corpus Christi Church, she received the name of Margaret Ward O'Leary.

Sister Anne Regina received her elementary education at Corpus Christi School in Warwood and graduated from St. Joseph Academy in Wheeling.

She entered the Congregation of St. Joseph on June 27, 1932, and made her profession of vows on December 30, 1934.

She received her B.A. in English and M.A. in English and Administration degrees at Catholic University in Washington, DC.

Sister Anne Regina was a renowned teacher, and frequently served as principal, at Sacred Heart, St. Joseph Academy and Central Catholic High School in Wheeling; St. Patrick in Weston; St. Peter in Fairmont; St. Joseph in Huntington; and at St. Mary and Notre Dame in Clarksburg. She was President of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling from 1970-1976, and she served as President of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph from 1972-1976.

In 1974 she established the Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation to help meet retirement needs of the sisters. Subsequently, she was employed by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as Associate Vicar for Religious and coordinator of activities related to Health Affairs and to Women in the Church. She continued to exert leadership on behalf of the Foundation until 2004 and, for several years, was Director of Communications for the congregation.

Prior to her death, she resided at Mount St. Joseph and participated in congregational activities.

Sister Anne Regina served on several boards including: St. Joseph's, St. Francis and Wheeling Hospitals; the Welty Board; National Conference of Vicars for Religious; and Wheeling Hall of Fame. She received many honors over

the years including: the Bishop's Cross, which she received in 1998 in honor of her extraordinary service to the Catholic schools of West Virginia; she was inducted into the Wheeling Hall of Fame in 2000 for her contributions to religion and education; and in 2008, she was honored with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice cross in recognition of her many years of service and dedication to the Church in West Virginia.

In addition to her parents, Sister Anne Regina was preceded in death by her sister, Mary O'Leary Arkle, and her nephew, Rev. Robert V. Arkle.

In addition to the members of her community, she is survived by cousins and friends, as well as former students and co-workers.

Family and friends will be received from 1-9 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at Mount St. Joseph, 137 Mount St. Joseph Road, Wheeling, where Vigil Services will be held at 7 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 in the Mount St. Joseph Chapel with Rev. John V. DiBacco, Jr., as celebrant.

Interment in the Sisters of St. Joseph section of Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling Foundation, 137 Mount St. Joseph Road, Wheeling, WV 26003.

Funeral arrangements by Altmeyer Funeral Home, Fourteenth and Eoff Streets, Wheeling.

Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.altmeyer.com