

Vale

TIMOTHY FRANCIS MORONEY

Tribute by Dr Chris Hanlon

While Volume 15 of the *Proceedings of the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society* was being printed, we were saddened to learn of the death of one of our founding members, Tim Moroney, whose funeral took place from Star of the Sea Church, Cleveland, on 15 November 2016.

Timothy Francis Moroney was born in 1939, into an old ALP family. His father, also named Tim, was a prominent member of the Australian Railways Union (ARU). On leaving school, young Tim became a motor mechanic in the Queensland Government. Here, in addition to his day job, he attended night school where he gained his Senior Certificate.

This, in turn, during the 1970s, led to his undertaking part-time studies at The University of Queensland first in Arts and then in Librarianship. His thesis was on Denis O'Donovan (1836-1911), Queensland Parliamentary Librarian (1874-1902). It came as no surprise, then, to find him engaged as a researcher on the staff of that same Library. During his career at the Library, he was seconded for some time to work on the Parliamentary staff of the Hon. Neville Warburton, State Parliamentary of the ALP and Member for Sandgate.

Socially, he had many interests, including membership of the Queensland Irish Association, the Brisbane History Group and being a foundation member, in 1988, of the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society, under its founding President, Fr. Tom Boland. These two interests merged, in 1996, when our Society was looking for a new meeting venue. Tim Moroney was one of the influences which led to our move to the Irish Club in Elizabeth St.

About five years before his death, he suffered a severe stroke which left him seriously incapacitated. Finally, on 7 November 2016, he died in his home at Ormiston. His funeral was celebrated at Star of the Sea Church, Cleveland on 15 November.

Our sympathies are extended to his wife, Margaret, and to his adult children Tom, Mick and Pat. May he rest in peace.

SR. ROSA MACGINLEY PBVM, OAM

Tribute by Dr Maree Ganley

Sister Rosa MacGinley was born in Rockhampton on the 30th August 1931, the third child of Irish parents James and Ellen (nee O'Brien) MacGinley and named Mary Ellen Rose. She grew up on a sheep property called "Eubar" about seven kilometres from the little siding of Gindi and thirty two kilometres from Emerald with her older brothers Tom and Pat and her younger sister Margaret.

The evening Rosary was part of their daily prayer while each Sunday, weather permitting, the family travelled to Mass at Emerald on the 32 kilometres of unsealed roads. Older brother Pat spent a few years with his grandmother in Capella where he attended the local State School, while Tom's early education was given by his parents, until the Qld Primary Correspondence School was opened in the mid thirties. Mary Ellen and Margaret did all their primary schooling by correspondence, while Pat first, and then Tom attended the boy's primary boarding school run by the Presentation Sisters in Emerald. They remained there until they completed the Scholarship examination and attended boarding school at Nudgee College.

In the MacGinley home there were well stocked book shelves containing many literary classics, especially historical, as well as lighter reading and children's stories. Rosa said that her father read for three or four hours each day of his life. The children read a great deal, and developed a love for literature and history. For Mary Ellen, that was the forerunner of the great historian she was to become.

After passing the Queensland Scholarship at the end of primary school, Mary Ellen went to boarding school at St. Rita's. She won prizes in the annual Catholic Readers and Writers essay competitions and passed junior and senior examinations with the highest honours, obtaining an open scholarship to the University of Queensland in four faculties, arts, medicine, law and science.¹

¹ Mary Rose MacGinley, interview by Maree Ganley, 7 February 2011, Audio; Written response, ACU Brisbane.

Mary Ellen joined the Presentation Congregation on the 23rd April 1951. Her religious name was Sister Rosa. She was professed January 1954 and her first appointment was as principal to St. Ursula's convent boarding school in Yeppoon. She introduced the sciences into the college and widened the number of subjects for senior matriculation. She taught all senior subjects ranging from home science to physics. After fourteen years at St Ursula's Sister Rosa taught for five years at St. Rita's, after which she was appointed superior at the Manly convent and director of the junior professed sisters. After one year she went to Rome to participate in the Australian Research Council (ARC) program, a study of Scripture and Theology. On her return she continued with a formation program for both the Presentation Sister's novitiate and for junior professed sisters.

Following the Vatican Council, the Church world wide, grew aware of the need for a socio religious analysis and historical research, which led to the establishment of the National Catholic Research Council (NCRC). The major superiors of religious institutes undertook a National Research Project on Religious Life, which led in 1980 to the setting up of the Institute of Religious Studies. Dr. Carmel Leavey, a Dominican Sister became the director with both Sister Rosa and Josephite Sister Rosalie O'Neill, being the foundation members. Sister Rosa moved to Sydney and worked for several years with Carmel and Rosalie. She also taught church history courses, at the Catholic Theological Union, a member institute of the Sydney College of Divinity.

It was during this period that Rosa wrote *Roads to Sion: Presentation Sisters in Australia 1866 – 1980* and *A Place of Springs; the Story of the Qld Presentation Sisters 1900 – 1960*. She obtained her MA (University of QLD) with her topic *A Study of Irish Migration to, and Settlement in Qld, 1885-1912*. Rosa went on to obtain her PhD with her thesis on *Catholicism in Qld 1910-1935: A Social History*.

While working with Sister Carmel Leavey, Sister Rosa undertook the mammoth task of writing about various institutes of women religious in Australia. Here she traced the origins and trends of women's religious life from earliest monastic times to mid-twentieth century Australia. This research resulted in the history of more than forty years of religious institutes in Australia, *A Dynamic of Hope: Institutes of Women Religious in Australia*.

After almost twenty years in Sydney, Rosa returned to Brisbane in 1998 and became a very valued founding member of the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society. She gave papers on several topics over the years, and was a regular attendee at their two monthly gatherings. In 1999 Rosa was elected as a member of the Presentation Congregational Leadership Team.

As a result of the publication by the Australian Catholic Bishop's 'Research Project on the Participation of Women in the Catholic Church in Australia 1996-1999', proposals were called for. The submission made by Dr. Rosa MacGinley and Dr. Sophie McGrath stated the need for a recovery of women's history. This led to the establishment of the Golding Centre for Women's History, Theology and Spirituality. Its primary objective

was to provide a sound academic basis for the Catholic Church's response, to the desire and need of women in the Australian Church. The Golding Centre was then situated within the school of Theology at ACU. The founding Golding Centre team consisted of Dr. Kim Power, Melbourne Campus, Dr. Sophie McGrath, Strathfield ACU Campus and Dr. Rosa MacGinley, Qld ACU Campus.

In this role, over many years, Rosa supervised a number of doctoral students who successfully submitted their thesis in the field of women's history. All the while her research, learning and writing continued. When Sister Rosa and Kim Power retired from the Centre in 2008, Sister Sophie continued and today works at the Strathfield campus maintaining contact with other ACU Campuses.

During this period Rosa produced several books, notably *Presentation Sisters in Papua New Guinea 1966-2006*, marking the fifty years of Presentation presence in PNG; *An Eloquent Witness: The Sisters of Our Lady Help of Christians*; also *Ancient Tradition – New World: Dominican Sisters in Eastern Australia 1867 – 1958*; *A Lamp Lit: A History of the Poor Clares Waverley Australia 1883-2004*. As well Sister Rosa wrote many full length monographs and journal articles.

Rosa's writings give evidence of her vast knowledge and understanding of the canonical context of women's Religious Orders in Australia, especially those founded from Ireland. In 1987 she was asked to be one of the speakers to deliver a paper during the Ireland – Australia Conference held in Dublin. Her Paper was titled: *The Irish in Queensland*.

In 2012 Rosa's years of dedication to theological education and contribution to women's history in Australia were recognized. She was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday honours list.

From 2014 Rosa had lived at the Presentation retirement centre at Herston. In these latter years she had bouts of poor health but maintained a deep faith and was always the most generous, gracious, gentle woman, graced abundantly with the gifts and fruits of the Spirit.

Sister Mary Ellen Rose MacGinley (Rosa) PBVM OAM died 11 November 2018. RIP

(Excerpts included taken from the eulogy delivered by Sister Cecily Foster. 19 November 2018 at St Joan of Arc Church Herston.)