

Sister M. Francina Skergan
March 12, 1920 - August 6, 2009

An imaginary conversation in the halls of Sacred Heart High School in the 1940's and 1950's:

“She’s the one who teaches religion in Room 125.”

“No, she teaches geometry. My little sister had her for geometry last year.”

“Listen, I know she was the teacher for European History. My friend had her two years and said she was very good.”

“But we always see her in the cafeteria at lunch time. I heard she’s the cafeteria manager for the grade and high schools.”

“What amazed me was when I heard the boys started here again in 1949, she went to Pitt and took up mechanical drawing so she could offer the boys a course that could help them get jobs right after they graduated. I thought that was really something.”

“And physics. I know she taught physics.”

Who is the antecedent of all these pronouns, “she?” The subject of all the sentences in the conversation? The ubiquitous and generous Sister Francina.

Sister Francina taught four of us in our family at Sacred Heart – to each of us she taught a different subject. One thing we all were very sure of was that she was an outstanding teacher. Outstanding!

As a high school sophomore, I knew, and I believe we all knew, that an exceptionally good teacher and an exceptionally good woman was in our midst. I personally never doubted that Sister Francina cared about me personally, not simply the girl in the third seat in the fourth row. I know many other girls at Sacred Heart shared my conviction.

***Teacher, Woman Religious, Woman of Prayer, Sister of Charity ---
This was Sister Francina.***



*Sister Mary Clark SC
Sacred Heart High School Student in the 1950's
Summer 2009*