



**Patricia Toner SL**  
**(Sister Gregory Ann)**  
**March 26, 1930 - September 7, 2011**

"I cannot imagine my life without music. I began taking lessons from a neighborhood lady when I was in second grade. During my childhood, my grandmother played the mandolin and my mother, the piano...Our family gatherings were highlighted with a song fest. I shared the accompaniment with Mother. Daddy and I had our own version of "Name That Tune" which we played in the car or at home. Sister Alice Eugene came to St. Benedict when I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and thus began my piano education with the SL's. I began playing organ in church when I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and continued to do so through the years.

Patricia Toner (known in religion as Sister Gregory Ann) was born in Louisville, Kentucky. Pat attended St. Benedict Elementary and Loretto High School. Pat entered the novitiate on October 25, 1948.

From 1951 through 1972 Pat studied and taught music. Starting at Blessed Sacrament in Denver, Pat taught 75 piano lessons weekly! At her next assignment, St. Ann's in Normandy, Missouri, she again had 70 + piano students weekly. At Webster College in Webster Groves she both taught and studied for three years.

At Loretto in Kansas City, Pat wrote, "My special love was choral work. I divided the entire chorus into groups of three voices, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> sopranos and alto. The sound was magnificent...stereophonic....I also had my first experience in directing musicals." Following the three fulfilling years in KC, Pat was sent to Loretto Heights College where she was grateful for so many friends who were sources of love and joy.

Pat noted that in 1971 she returned home to Loretto High School. After Loretto High closed in 1973, Pat took a position at Riverside Elementary School in Jeffersonville, Indiana. She commented that she believed she did her best teaching of her 42 years there. "I know it was my happiest and most fulfilling teaching experience...Again my special joys came from the choral work with my 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade choir and the 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> grade training choir. Musicals were the prime fare and I became a dance teacher. We trained the children to write a resume and prepared them for auditions. What a thrill to see one's students perform at Actors' Theatre and Derby Dinner Playhouse. I retired from Riverside in 1990 to spend more time with Mother.

"In 1991, I began playing at Christ the King, an African American community. The joy and peace of the people fulfills my desires musically, religiously, and personally."

A true Kentuckian, Pat loved horseracing. She was in her glory during the Kentucky Derby celebrations every spring.

St. Patrick's Day celebrations were great fun when Pat was in the house. Pat, we still marvel at your ability to sit down at the piano and play any piece that anyone would suggest.