

AND YET....BETWEEN BEARING AND CARING FOR NINE CHILDREN...
MARGARET STILL FOUND TIME FOR TEACHING IN PUBLIC AND PAROCHIAL
SCHOOLS FOR SEVERAL YEARS....TIME..TO SERVE AS A CHARTER MEMBER
OF THE PRESIDENT'S ASSOCIATES COMMITTEE OF LEMOYNE COLLEGE.....
TIME...TO TAKE EIGHT CREDIT SEMESTER COURSES AT ONONDAGA COMMUNITY
COLLEGE....TIME...TO JOIN THE WEEKLY PARISH BIBLE STUDY GROUP....
TO TEACH EACH CHILD ART AND MUSIC...(ALTHO ONLY JOHN PLAYED PIANO
AND STRUMMED THE UKE-KA-LA-LEE)AND THERE WAS ALWAYS FRESH HOME-
MADE BREAD ON THE KITCHEN TABLE.

NOR WERE MARGARET'S ACTIVITIES RESTRICTED ONLY TO SALT SPRINGS
ROAD...MARGO TRAVELED, LIVED AND SPENT A MONTH AMONG THE PEOPLES
OF INDIA SO AS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE PEOPLES OF THE THIRD WORLD.
BY VACATIONING IN IRELAND AND CANADA...THEIR CHILDREN WERE STRENGTHENED
IN FAMILY ROOTS...YES...UNITY AND LOYALTY WERE FAMILY VIRTUES..

AS MARGARET WAS LEAVING THIS WORLD AT PENTECOST....ANOTHER "first"
LADY WAS ADDRESSING A GRADUATION CLASS....EPITOMISING THE VERY SAME
SENTIMENTS THAT MARGARET WOULD LEAVE AS LEGACY, COULD SHE SPEAK:

"AT THE VERY END OF YOUR LIFE....YOU WILL NEVER REGRET....
NOT HAVING PASSED ONE MORE TEST....NOT EARNING ONE MORE CREDIT....
BUT YOU WILL REGRET....TIME NOT SPENT WITH YOUR HUSBAND....
WITH A CHILD...A FRIEND....OR A PARENT".

ON THAT BAPTISMAL FONT IN THE SANCTUARY OF ST. MICHAEL'S...WHERE
THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN YET UNBORN WILL RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST
....THERE IS A PLAQUE THAT READS "GIVEN IN MEMORY OF TWO YEAR OLD
JOHNNIE DOWNS"....THE FIRST CHILD OF HOHN AND MARGARET.

AND AS MARGARET ASCENDS THAT POLISHED STAIRCASE TO HER HEAVENLY
HOME....LITTLE JOHNNIE WILL EMBRACE MARGARET...HIS MOTHER...AND LEAD
HER TO MARY....THE MOTHER OF JESUS.

....AND THERE WILL BE GREAT JOY IN HEAVEN.....THIS PENTECOST.

(Homily for Funeral Mass of Margaret Downes - June 6, 1990
St. Michael's Church given by Father Bob Barrett)