



Frances Tobin, RSCJ

Sister Fran Tobin was born on July 18, 1934 in San Antonio, Texas, the second of four children. She went to the local elementary school, and when the family moved to Baltimore, Maryland, she returned to San Antonio for high school as a boarder. For college, she went to Manhattanville where a vocation matured. She entered the novitiate in 1956 and after her first vows, she remained at Kenwood helping in the boarding school. Then she was sent to Buffalo, New York where we had just founded a new school Nottingham. She went to Rome for the six months prior to making final vows. The Second Vatican Council was underway at the time and the Probanists got all the latest “news” through Sr. Mary Louise Schroen. Back in the States, she was sent to Nottingham as head of the middle school; then, back at Kenwood to shore up the faltering middle school. This, for about 4 years. Then, after a short stint at Noroton (our boarding school in Connecticut), she went to the theological school at Andover-Newton where she received her MA degree in Theology (Cum Laude). Following this, she became Professor at St. John’s Catholic Seminary outside Detroit, teaching Pastoral Training. She was instrumental in opening the program up to women. After 5 1/2 years, Fran was asked to be a member of a special committee to study forming one Province from the current 5 Province structure. Following this task, she entered law school and earned her degree with an emphasis on working with the poor. To learn Spanish, she was sent to Guatemala and Salvador, then Nicaragua--this, during the time of terrible revolts. Back in the States, she went to Houston, then to San Diego to work on behalf of immigrants at our boarder. Finally, the Province asked her to work at Oakwood to unravel the mysteries of Medicare and Medical insurance for the local RSCJ. She saw that all her work should be centralized in St. Louis and the Provincial House. Last fall, Fran had a near-death experience which landed her in the hospital and rehab for over a month. We

2. are glad to have her now a member of the Oakwood Community.