

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Josh Colle

Seconded by: Councillor Joe Mihevc

The Mayor, Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Sister Susan Moran on Sunday, December 18, 2016. Susan was 78 years old.

Susan was born in Montreal but grew-up in Toronto, where she attended Loretto Abbey and Toronto Teacher's College. She began teaching in Toronto in 1963 and soon entered Our Lady's Missionaries. Susan later obtained a Master's Degree in Theological Studies at St. Augustine's College.

In 1987, Susan's passion for teaching led her to a position as Pastoral Minister at St. Michael's College School, where a tragic incident would change the course of her life's work. Shortly after taking students to donate food and clothing to a homeless man – unfathomably – he was beaten to death. The incident prompted Susan to develop a strategy to get people off the streets. As a first step, with the help of Basilian priest Rev. John Murphy, Anglican priest Rev. John Erb, and students from St. Michael's, she opened a soup kitchen in an old storefront on St. Clair Avenue West.

Together, they developed a model for emergency shelters called Out of the Cold, where faith-based organizations like churches, synagogues and mosques would open their doors to provide food and shelter on the coldest days of the year. Susan was a visionary who built Out of the Cold on the basic notion that everyone deserves food and a warm place to sleep. Through her work, she is credited with saving thousands of lives.

While Out of the Cold has been a resounding success over the past 30 years, Susan never intended it to be a long-term project. She was a tireless crusader for permanent affordable housing and support for Toronto's most vulnerable. Certainly, she can find solace in the fact that her work has provided a solid foundation from which a nation-wide strategy can be built.

As recognition for her compassion and leadership on the issue of homelessness, Susan was invested with the Order of Canada in 2006 and was inducted into the Order of St. Michael in 2001, through St. Michael's College School.

In addition to her many friends and colleagues, Susan leaves her brother Dan and sister Maureen, six nieces and nephews and 12 grand-nieces and nephews.

"Think of her when you walk by someone out on the street"

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy and deepest respect to the family and friends of Sister Susan Moran.

January 31, 2017