Ministries- Pyramid

Sister Margaret was a woman of great courage and broad vision who saw the social mission of the Church as embracing all of the pressing needs of the human family. The scope of the ministry was conceptualized by her in the form of a pyramid. The base of the pyramid consists of the works of charity. The second level comprises social service. The third level consists of movements, and the top of the pyramid is the political ministry.

Works of charity: were pursued in parishes; in state, city and diocesan offices of charity; in soup kitchens and in emergency relief activities to the destitute. Sisters conducted day-care centres and kindergartens, founded and maintained maternity homes for the villagers; residences and programs for working women; and homes for the aged. They organized courses in sewing, cooking and indigenous arts and crafts. Sisters organized summer camps for the poor children of Budapest, and organized vacations for women working in factories and in clerical jobs.

Social work: Sisters organized study days and courses on social problems, and on the social teachings of the Church. In 1937, they founded the school of social work in Hungary. Somewhat earlier, a „Social Seminary” and a training program for parish ministers in Rumania. From among the activities of Catholic Action, our Sisters worked in the socio-political department of the Catholic Women’s Association; in the National Organization of Catholic Housewives.

In Czechoslovakia and Rumania, Sisters organized religious and liturgical article stores, and indigenous art and craft cooperatives. Between 1927 and 1944, the sisters in Kolozsvár conducted a hotel. This secured the financial basis for the social work and movement programs of the Rumanian District. Sisters worked in the „Railway Mission; and in the organization of domestic workers. Between 1940-1945 Sisters worked in behalf of the state’s social welfare program on regional, county and city levels.

Movements: To spread awareness of and devotion to the Holy Spirit, Sr. Margaret organized the "Holy Spirit Association". Sisters worked in the liturgical movement of the times, organizing liturgical study days, retreats and days of prayer. In 1930, the Hungarian section of the Young Christian Worker and Young Christian Student was started and our Sisters gave leadership to all sections of the movement through the National Catholic Women's Association. In Czechoslovakia and in Transylvania, they led the entire Hungarian Catholic Women's Movement. For all the above movements and associations, our Sisters provided leadership training. They also served in the movement for the revival of folk-art, and promoted reconciliation among the various groups of minorities in the country.

Political ministry: In order to promote the political rights of Women and to better penetrate the public sphere with the Gospel, Sr. Margaret organized the "Christian Women's Corps" (a political party).

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1 Life int he Spirit
Sisters of Social Service
For the defense of the rights of the Church in Rumania, between 1945 and 1949 several of our Sisters collaborated with the apostolic Nuncio in Bucharest. For these and other activities, 15 of our Sisters were in prison, some for very long terms (10-13 years).

In Hungary, Sr. Margaret was elected three times to the Parliament. During her first term of 1920-22, she was the first and only woman member of the parliament. She was elected again in 1945 and in 1947. She served until 1949, giving her voice to the values of the Gospel in legislation. Sr. Mariann also served in the Hungarian Congress between 1947 and 1949, and was city councilwoman of Budapest together with Sr. Natalie from 1945-49. In addition to her membership in the Parliament, Sr. Margaret served as city councilwoman during the following years: 1920-22, 1930-34, and 1945-49.