



# THE WORD LIVES

November 14, 2018

SISTER KATHLEEN McDONAGH  
AUGUST 12, 1930—NOVEMBER 13, 2018

In the conclusion of her book, *Treasured Heritage: Ever Ancient Ever New*, Sister Kathleen wrote:

“Throughout the greater part of this study, we reflected on the spirituality given to us by Jeanne Chézard de Matel and compared it with the spirituality presented for the Third Millennium by the late Pope John Paul II. Both share the most basic points. How blessed, then, are Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in that the basic spirituality of the Order given to them in the 17th Century places them totally in union with the Third Millennium spirituality to which the Pope calls the whole Church. Certainly, they will find new forms of ministry in this new millennium but their basic spirituality remains the same. For that, they can repeat with emphasis the words that are their usual greeting:

*“Praised be the Incarnate  
Word!”*



**Sister Kathleen McDonagh** (Catherine Ann) was born in Dublin, Ireland, August 12, 1930. She entered the Incarnate Word Congregation August 26, 1947 at age 17.

During her 30 years of teaching in Catholic schools in Laredo, Brownsville, and Corpus Christi, she taught on all levels from primary through college, then adult theology classes. Creative in music, writing, and teaching, Sister Kathleen shared her talents through many years of writing for Catholic periodicals, giving retreats and presentations—particularly on the spirituality, history, and works of our Foundress, Jeanne Chézard de Matel. She translated some of our Foundress’s writings from French to English and spent several summers in France and Rome working on the Cause of Beatification of Mother de Matel.

Her writings on the spirituality and history of the Order are invaluable. Some include: “Like a Crystal Vase”, “These Went Before Us”, “God’s Border Rose”, “A Love that Never Says ‘Enough’”, *Treasured Heritage: Ever Ancient, Ever New*.

Other congregational ministries of Sr. Kathleen include the offices of General Councilor, Secretary General, Vocation Director, and Formation Director. She taught classes in the Diocesan Pastoral Institute for many years. She served in several diocesan offices: member of the Permanent Diaconate Board and founding teacher in designing the program for deacon candidates, a columnist for the *South Texas Catholic*, Secretary and then Director for the Office of Consecrated Life.



The five McDonaghs in 2011

In her retirement, Sister Kathleen wrote: *God has indeed blessed me over a long life with many steps which bring me closer and closer to Him. Praised be the*