

## **Sister Margaret O'Neill, 80 years**

Born in Ontario Canada, Margaret Rose O'Neill met the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace when her family moved to Fernie, B.C. Like many CSJPs, she attended St. Joseph High School in Nelson, B.C. She was only sixteen when she entered the novitiate in Bellingham in 1937 and was named Sister Theresa Rose. She earned a B.A. from Western Washington University, a Masters in Education from Seattle University and a Ph.D from Fordham University. Margaret taught in Catholic schools in Alaska, British Columbia, California, Oregon and Washington. During her university teaching career, she taught at Notre Dame University of Nelson, B.C., Brooklyn College and St. Thomas University, New Brunswick.

Margaret's life took a different turn in the early 1980's, when work at Sacred Heart Shelter led her to join with CSJPs Joan Leonard and Ann Wetherilt in founding Jubilee Women's Center, a transitional housing program for homeless women. After launching Jubilee in 1983, Margaret researched and wrote *The Life of Mother Clare*, a biography of the founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace.

Margaret now lives at St. Mary-on-the-Lake with other senior Sisters. She says, "My life as a Sister of St. Joseph of Peace has been a time of great joy, with gratitude to our loving God and to those along the way who helped me in my journey. Religious life has brought great satisfaction and happiness, together with many challenges as I served God in teaching for 34 years, and then in working with women in transition."

