



Sr Mary Gregory SGS
Diocese of Wollongong

Mary Gregory, SGS was professed as a Good Samaritan Sister on January 6, 1947. After graduating as a teacher she taught in city and country schools, and in 1957 was the founding Principal of Mater Dei, Camden, a school for children with intellectual disabilities.

Mary also graduated in Social Work and was appointed the Director of the Good Samaritan Centre, Arncliffe, on several occasions spanning a period of 21 years. The Centre was entrusted with socially and emotionally disadvantaged young persons committed to care by the Children's Courts. They were enabled to acquire the life skills needed to fulfil their potential and take their place in society. From the Centre a School Community Development Programme was established in the local area.

In the intervening period she headed the School Social Work Division of Centacare, Sydney, pioneering the Catholic Education's Disadvantaged Schools' Social Work Programme, the first in Australia. It was designed to maximise the pupils' educational opportunities.

After completing a post-graduate course in Family Ministry in 1986, Mary became the Director of the Ministry of Family Development in the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese. Parishes were encouraged to adopt a "family perspective" in all ministries so that families were supported to build on their strengths.

Ten years later Mary moved to Claymore in the Macarthur area. Here, she pioneered the Animation Programme sponsored by the St Vincent de Paul Society and several Religious Congregations. Through this program oppressed people in public housing estates are given a voice in deciding their own destiny so that "they might have life, and have it to the full." (Jn. 10:10)

Mary now resides in Camden, back to the grounds of Mater Dei. She retains her passion for social justice.