

A Short Sketch of the Guild of St. Radegonde
By Mary E. Shields, R.N.

The Guild of St. Radegonde was founded by Miss Ellen McHugh, a graduate of the Boston City Hospital, in November, 1908, and organized in February, 1909, through the kindness of Rev. Thomas T. Gasson, President of Boston College, with the permission of Archbishop O'Connell. Rev. Fr. Corbert, S.J., was appointed Spiritual Director. Since then regular meetings have been held on the second Tuesday of each month, excepting July and August, at a quarter past eight in the evening. A short service is held in the Chapel of Boston College by the Spiritual Director (at present Rev. Wm. Conway, S.J.), after which a social hour is spent in the Music Room of the College, a short entertainment given, and refreshments served. The Guild now numbers 150 members, the majority of whom are graduates from recognized schools.

The object of the Guild is to promote a deeper religious feeling among Roman Catholic Nurses, and to devote more attention to the spiritual side of the nurse's life.

In the care of the sick the physical side calls for so much attention that the spiritual is apt to be overlooked, and we are prone, in the multitude of duties and the fatigue and weariness when the day is over, to think more of resting our bodies than keeping up religious duties, and Church becomes but a secondary consideration.

St. Radegonde was chosen as the Patron Saint because she was the first woman of whom we have record, who instructed others in the care of the sick. She lived in the sixth century, and was married at an early age to King Clotaire of France. He was a very bad man, we are told, but possessed of fabulous wealth, and supplied St. Radegonde bountifully with what she needed for the work of caring for the sick, which was so dear to her heart.

She banded together a number of ladies and taught them how to take intelligent care of the sick. She also built a House or Hospital for the care of those who had no home. A very interested account of St. Radegonde is given by Miss Dock in the American Journal of Nursing for September 1908.

Shields, Mary E. (Sep 1911), [A Short Sketch of the Guild of St. Radegonde](#). The Quarterly Record of the Boston and Massachusetts General Hospital Alumnae Association, Vol. 1, No. 3. Accessed online 9/18/2019.



Joan H. Doherty, RN (August 12, 1935-July 25, 2018) was an active member of the Guild of St. Radegonde, the National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A. (NACN-USA) and the International Council of Catholic Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS). She devoted her life to Catholic nursing and traveled the world with Marylee Meehan, RN, MA attending national and international Catholic nursing gatherings. Upon Joan's death, her family had donations made to the National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A.

Obituary for Joan H. Doherty (Copithorne)

DOHERTY, Joan H. (Copithorne) of Arlington. July 25, 2018. Loving mother of Erin Walsh and her husband John of Framingham, Shawna Doherty of Arlington and the late Marybeth, John, and Rose. Devoted grandmother of John Francis, Brendan, Claire, and Maeve. Former wife of Charles Doherty of Westford. Sister of Marie Oldoni of Rowley, Elaine Regan of Centerville, and Paul Copithorne of Brighton. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral from the Keefe Funeral Home, 5 Chestnut St., (Rt.60, adjacent to St. Agnes Church) ARLINGTON on Monday at 9 am. Funeral mass in Saint Agnes' Church at 10 am. Relatives and friends invited. Visiting hours Sunday 2-6 pm. Burial is private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to National Assoc. of Catholic Nurses.

<https://memorials.keefefuneralhome.com/joan-h-doherty/3574115/service-details.php>