

## MARGARET ANN FARLEY

*Doctor of Divinity*

*Presented by Allison Read, College Chaplain*

*Escorted by Patricia Byrne, Professor of Religion, Emerita*

One of the nation's foremost religious ethicists, you attended the University of Detroit, where you earned your A.B. degree in English literature and M.A. in philosophy in 1957 and 1960, respectively. It was at Yale, in 1970 and 1973, that you completed your M.Phil. and Ph.D., both in religious studies, in 1970 and 1973.

A member of the Sisters of Mercy, you joined the faculty of the Yale Divinity School in 1971 as a lecturer. And it was there that you spent the balance of your teaching career: as an assistant professor from 1972 to 1974; associate professor from 1974 to 1984; professor from 1984 to 2007; and, now, as Gilbert L. Stark Professor Emerita of Christian Ethics.

Your prominence in your field is reflected in the many honors that have been bestowed upon you. You've received 11 honorary degrees and many other fellowships and awards. Among them, you received the prestigious John Courtney Murray Award for Excellence in Theology and the Grawemeyer Award in Religion for your book, *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*.

Your scholarship is reflected in your impressive body of published work. You have published more than 100 articles, papers, and book chapters on a range of topics that includes medical ethics, sexual ethics, ethics and spirituality, justice, historical theological ethics, and HIV/AIDS. In addition you have either written, co-written, or edited seven books. Among them, *Just Love* is arguably the most notable.

As controversial as it is widely read, *Just Love* offers a carefully articulated view of love in which the criterion for all loving relationships is grounded in justice. *Just Love*, which begins with a historic perspective and explores sexual ethics in the context of many kinds of relationships, raised your profile outside of your profession, ensuring that the book reached a very broad audience of people who have benefited from your insights.

Beyond your scholarship and commitment to your profession, you have remained, throughout your career, a servant of humankind. You have served on many different boards and committees related to ethics. You were a founding member of the Bioethics Committee at Yale-New Haven Hospital. For eight years you served as co-director of Yale's Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics. You were director of the Divinity School's Women's Initiative. And you are past president of The Society of Christian Ethics and the Catholic Theological Society of America.

In 2002 you hosted a group of female theologians from Africa who traveled to New Haven to discuss how they might play a greater role in confronting the seemingly intractable AIDS/HIV pandemic in Africa. Out of that seminal meeting emerged the All-Africa Conference: Sister to Sister, of which you are co-director to this day.

Throughout your career you have never taken the easy way. Your scholarship and teaching stand as exemplars for painstaking research and circumspection. Nor have you been deterred when positions you have taken, on various topics, have provoked sometimes protracted and intense opposition.

For your integrity, your dedication to your profession, your unstinting service to your fellow human beings, and your steadfast belief in justice as the yardstick against which love is best measured, I have the honor of presenting you, Margaret Ann Farley, for the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*.