

## **Profile in Mercy: Sister Alicia MacAdden - truly an artist**

As Sister Alicia MacAdden in Argentina turned 90 recently, she baked her own cake and decorated it with beautiful, small sugar flowers.

"For me, cooking is an artistic expression. I have art incorporated very deeply in my life and I love sharing it with others," says Sister Alicia. She developed a passion for culinary skills as a newly professed Sister of Mercy managing the convent kitchen in Buenos Aires for ten years. Through that gift of service, she nurtured the bodies and souls of those around her as she offered love, dedication and caring through the food she produced.

Thanks to the encouragement of a senior sister, she next studied art at Mercy College in Detroit, Michigan, and completed her master's degree in home economics and art. "While I was there, I made a portrait of a head in bronze, which was my greatest work," says Alicia," but the most profound and relevant experience for me was when they melted and poured metal for the sculpture. It had a very special meaning for me, of rebirth. I was asked to leave the work for an exhibition, so it remains there, but the memory of the experience remains indelible in me."

In 1968, Alicia returned to Argentina to teach art at both Mercy schools and public schools, at the primary and high school levels. Currently, she works with children in the summer group, whom she guides in different manual activities during the school recess period. "To be remembered by the young people and greeted with affection when they see me, is very fulfilling for a person my age."

At home, she teaches a group of women from the neighborhood weaving, tapestry, dream catchers, whatever is in fashion at the time, so they can teach their children. "Those who have money to buy the materials buy it for themselves and, if not, I buy materials for the children and for the women who need it most."

Her age is not a limitation in her activities "The sisters want to take care of me and tell me to take a cab to get around, but I prefer to take a bus, to be surrounded by people. I like being in touch with people better."

"One day talking to a priest I told him that I would love to be able to sing and he answered me that God gave me many gifts and he distributes them, I can't have them all.", she laughs.