Sister Ann Schwarz, SHCJ

December 21, 1932 – December 14, 2015

Educator

Rosemont, Pennsylvania – Sister Ann Schwarz, who was a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus for 61 years, died of cardiac failure on Monday, December 14, 2015, at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, PA. She was 82.

Sister Ann’s relationship with the Society of the Holy Child Jesus was extensive and enduring. She had the distinct privilege of being related to Cornelia Connelly, a native Philadelphian and Foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, through her father, who was a direct descendent of Adeline Duval, Cornelia’s oldest sister.

Sister Ann cherished the memories of the love and care she received at the School of the Holy Child in Suffern, NY, where she boarded after her mother died. Upon graduation, Sister Ann entered the Society in 1951. She professed her final vows in 1959 and was well known by her religious name Mother Mary Theophila.

As a gifted and beloved teacher who masterfully connected with her students, Sister Ann taught for 25 years in schools on both coasts: Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill, PA, St. Leonard’s Academy in Philadelphia, PA, Rosemont School of the Holy Child in Rosemont, PA, Holy Family and St. Charles Schools in Portland, OR, and Mayfield Junior School in Pasadena, CA. She also taught at St. Anastasia School in Waukegan, IL.

Sister Ann’s next 20 years of ministry were devoted to religious education in parishes throughout the country, including Cape Coral, FL; Bayonne, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; Washington, DC; Littleton, CO; Charlotte, NC; and Bryn Mawr, PA. Sister Ann brought creativity and inspiration to catechetics, especially through music and dance.

Sister Ann was an avid practitioner and expert in Tai Chi, which she continued to teach even after she retired from active ministry. She lived her remaining years at Holy Child Center and welcomed all with a warm smile and prayerful spirit.

Sister Ann received a bachelor’s of science degree in elementary education from Villanova University in1959 and a master’s degree in education from Loyola University in Los Angeles, CA, in 1967.

Sister Ann was the loving daughter of the late Hamilton D. and Frances (nee McVicker) Schwarz and is survived by her sister Natalie (Rye Hockert) and her brothers Tracy (Ginny) and Philip (Janet) Schwarz.

Friends and family are invited to a prayer service of remembrance on Thursday, December 17, at 4:00 p.m., and to the Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, December 18, at 11:00 a.m., at New Sharon Chapel, 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA. Preceding Mass, friends and family are welcome to visit at 10:00 a.m. Funeral arrangements are handled by Donohue’s Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Society of the Holy Child Jesus at 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA 19010 or [click here](https://www.chi-cash-advance.com/sforms/appeal1098/Contribute.aspx).

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