Sister Barbara Mullen, SHCJ

February 20, 1929 – June 12, 2016

Educator, Administrator

Rosemont, Pennsylvania – Sister Barbara Mullen, who was a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus for 66 years, died on Sunday, June 12, 2016, at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, CA. She was 87. Her faith and passion for education, women studies and theology had been fundamental to her life of ministry.

A graduate of Holy Child Academy in Sharon, PA, Sister Barbara grew up in a close-knit, musical family. In 1947, she entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus where she struggled with homesickness for the first year. Sister Barbara’s father, a talented musician, sent his complete set of drums to lift her spirits. Later in life, she shared that it was her love of God that stabilized her during this time. She made her final vows in 1955 and was well known by her religious name Mother Anthony Mary.

Sister Barbara blossomed as a classroom teacher and generously shared her talents at the organ and piano. She taught at St. Edward School (1950-1955) and St. James School (1955-1957) in Philadelphia, and then at Sts. Peter and Paul (1957-1964) in Fleetwood, NY. Later she served as principal of St. James School in Philadelphia (1964-1967), Assumption School in Pasadena, CA (1967-1970), and St. Elizabeth School in New York City (1971-1976).

For the next 39 years, Sister Barbara lived and ministered on the west coast. She taught at Alverno High School (1977-1984) and Bellarmine-Jefferson High School (1984-1989) in Sierra Madre and Burbank, CA, respectively. She then joined the women’s studies department at the University of Washington in Seattle as a visiting scholar (1989-1991).

In 1991, Sister Barbara returned to Pasadena where she became the first dean of students and assistant head of school at Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child, positions she held for 14 years. She continued to minister at Mayfield Senior School as director of formation to mission where she organized theology seminars for students and led prayer groups for women. She worked closely with the SHCJ Associates, parents, and students – endearing herself to the Mayfield family while deepening their faith and understanding of Cornelia Connelly. For a total of 25 years, Sister Barbara joyfully served, embraced, and cherished the Mayfield Senior School and its community.

Sister Barbara received a bachelor’s degree in English from Villanova University in1959, a master’s degree in educational psychology and guidance from Fordham University in 1962, and a master’s degree in feminist spirituality from the Immaculate Heart College in 2000. She also completed post-graduate studies at Stanford University and Columbia University.

Sister Barbara was the loving daughter of the late Anthony James and Marie (nee Speicher) Mullen. She now joins her parents and siblings, Maureen, Anthony (AJ), George, and Jim in eternal life. She is survived by a brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephews.

Friends and family are invited to the viewing and Vigil on Thursday, June 16, beginning at 7:30 p.m. and the Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, June 17, at 11:00 a.m., at St. Andrew Catholic Church, 311 North Raymond Avenue, Pasadena, CA. Preceding Mass, friends and family are welcome to visit at 9:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to:

Society of the Holy Child Jesus

1341 Montgomery Avenue

Rosemont, PA 19010

To make an online gift, visit [www.shcj.org/american/donate](http://www.shcj.org/american/donate).

The Sister Barbara Mullen Fund for Mission and Ministry  
 Mayfield Senior School  
 500 Bellefontaine St.   
 Pasadena, CA 91105  
 To make an online gift, visit <https://www.mayfieldsenior.org/give-online>

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