Sister Edwina Menten, SHCJ

Educator, Administrator & Missionary

April 13, 1928 – February 13, 2015

**Rosemont, Pennsylvania—**Sister Edwina Menten, who was a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus for 66 years, died of cardiac arrest on Friday, February 13, 2015. She was 86.

Born in Chicago, IL, Sister Edwina was the daughter of Thomas and Gladys (Keller) Menten. At age nine, her family moved to Melrose, MA, where she was taught by the Holy Child Sisters at St. Mary’s Grade School and St. Mary’s High School. Following graduation, Sister Edwina entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and professed her first vows in 1949 and final vows in 1954. She became well-known by her religious name, Mother Mary Edwina.

Sister Edwina began her first ministry at St. James School in Philadelphia, PA, as a teacher and principal from 1949 -1961. For the next six years, she taught at St. Elizabeth’s School in New York City and then St. Ignatius School in Chicago. In 1967, she pioneered the Society’s first missionary work in Santiago, Chile, where she served as principal of Santa Rosa School.

Returning to Philadelphia in 1973, Sister Edwina taught at St. Leonard’s Academy for seven years, and then relocated to Farmington, MI, to be the administrator of Mercy Center for three years. From 1983-1988, she directed the Society’s missionary appeals and mission education programs at Dalton Center in New York City. For the next 19 years, she ministered in Santiago, Chile, as a pastoral counselor at Santo Tomas and Centro Cornelia Connelly, a ministry established by the Holy Child Sisters in 1995. Today, Centro Cornelia Connelly continues to offer outreach to the homeless and spiritual formation programs for youth and adults.

In 2007, Sister Edwina retired from active ministry and lived in community in Rye, NY, until 2011, when she moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, PA.

Sister Edwina earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Villanova University and master’s degree in English Literature from The Catholic University of America.

She is survived by two sisters and several nieces and nephews.

Friends and family were invited to a prayer service of remembrance on Friday, March 6, at 4:00 p.m., and to a memorial Mass on Saturday, March 7, at 11:00 a.m., New Sharon Chapel, 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA. At Sister Edwina’s request her body has been donated to medical science. Funeral arrangements were handled by Donohue 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.

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