



Elizabeth Fitzmaurice, SHCJ
October 23, 1930 – May 25, 2018
Educator, Administrator

Rosemont, Pennsylvania – Elizabeth Fitzmaurice, SHCJ, who was a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus for 65 years, died peacefully on May 25, 2018. She was 87.

Sister Elizabeth made history in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. She was appointed the first Province Leader of the newly formed American Province in 1976. Her intelligence, leadership, and administrative skills made her a natural fit for this time of change and challenge in the Society and during the Catholic Church's period of renewal after Vatican II. She served a total of 16 years in Society leadership positions.



Sister Elizabeth was born in Kenosha, WI, but at the age of 16, she moved to Waukegan, IL, and attended Holy Child High School in 1949. After graduation, she entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and made her final vows in 1957. She became known by her religious name Mother Thomas Mary.

Beginning in 1952, Sister Elizabeth's teaching ministry at the elementary and secondary school levels spanned nearly two decades. She taught or served as head of school at Saint Edward School in Philadelphia, PA (1952-1953); Saints Peter and Paul School in Fleetwood, NY (1953-1957); Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus in Pasadena, CA (1957-1961); Annunciation School in Washington, DC (1961-1963); and Holy Child Academy in Sharon Hill, PA (1963-1971). Sister Elizabeth was well loved and respected by her students, and many kept in contact with her throughout their lives, especially Holy Child Sharon alumnae.

Sister Elizabeth's leadership role within the Society began in 1970 when she was

named to the Rosemont Province's Leadership Team. Three years later she was appointed Province Leader in the Rosemont Province. In 1976, the Society underwent a major organizational change and three separate Provinces within the United States – New York, Rosemont, and Western (California and Oregon) -- were merged into one and named the American Province. Sister Elizabeth was appointed the first Leader in the newly formed American Province. Her groundbreaking work in organizing the Province remains in effect today. She served as the American Province Leader for two consecutive terms, ending this position in 1983.

Following her leadership appointments, Sister Elizabeth returned to school and then served in pastoral or educational ministries in Michigan and Massachusetts. Eventually, Massachusetts became her home, and she worked at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, MA, as Acting Director of Supervising Ministries and then Dean of Student Affairs. In 2007, Sister Elizabeth retired from Weston School and moved to Concord, MA. Due to health reasons, Sister Elizabeth relocated to Rosemont, PA, in 2017.

Sister Elizabeth earned a bachelor of arts in history and then a master of arts in history. A student at heart, Sister Elizabeth enrolled in classes and workshops throughout her religious life in the hopes of better serving the Society and the larger community.

She joins her parents Thomas and Madeline (Malone) and siblings James and Jane (Mantel) in eternal life.

Friends and family are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday, May 31, at 11:00 a.m., at Holy Child Chapel, 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA, 19010. Funeral arrangements are handled by Donohue Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Society of the Holy Child Jesus – American Province, 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA 19010, or make a gift online at www.shcj.org/american/donate.