



Jane Bigelow, SHCJ
January 30, 1933 – May 15, 2018
Teacher, Principal, Counselor

Rosemont, Pennsylvania – Jane Bigelow, SHCJ, who was a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus for 64 years, died peacefully on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, PA. She was 85.

Sister Jane, the daughter of Dr. Samuel and Helen (Walsh) Bigelow, was born in Philadelphia and had one sister, Anne (Bigelow) Irish. Sister Jane attended Holy Child Academy in Sharon Hill, and after graduation in 1950, she entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. She made her final vows in August 1958, and became well known by the religious name Mother Mary Samuel.

For nine years, Sister Jane taught in Philadelphia elementary Catholic schools including, Saint James (1953-1954), Saint Edward (1954-1957), Holy Spirit (1957-1959), and Saint Lucy (1959-1962). During this time, Sister Jane earned a Bachelor's of Science in Education from Villanova University in 1961.



In 1962, Sister Jane moved to Portland, OR, where she taught or served as principal at several schools including, Holy Family (1962-1965), Saint Charles (1965-1975), and Saint Rose (1975-1979). While teaching, Sister Jane continued to study. She earned a Master's in Library Science from University of Portland and a Master's in English and Psychology from Portland State University. At the University of Oregon, she received a certificate in administration and supervision.

Returning to the East Coast in 1979, Sister Jane worked in social ministry for one year at Saint Elizabeth Parish, and then served on the Boston Archdiocesan Education Development Team for four years. In 1984, she was named principal of Saint Rose of Lima in Short Hills, NJ, and then in 1988, appointed principal of Annunciation School in Washington, D.C.

In 1992, a complete change of ministry brought Sister Jane to Emmaus House in Ocean Grove, NJ. Here she ministered for 20 years as a healing educator. Her tasks included counseling, directing retreats, and working with 22 staff members. While ministering at Emmaus House, she attended Rutgers University and became a licensed counselor. Regarding these fruitful

years, Sister Jane once said, "I am grateful to the Society for the support they have given to me and to this apostolate."

Sister Jane now joins her parents and sister in eternal life. She is survived by a brother-in-law.

Friends and family are invited to a prayer service of remembrance on Friday, May 18, at 4:00 p.m., and to the Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, May 19, at 11:00 a.m., at Holy Child Chapel, 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA, 19010. Preceding Mass, friends and family are welcome to attend the wake at 10:00 a.m. Funeral arrangements are handled by Donohue Funeral Home.

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