



Loretta Tiernan, SHCJ
December 4, 1938 – February 5, 2019
Teacher, Pastoral Care Minister

Rosemont, Pennsylvania -- Loretta Tiernan, SHCJ, a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus for 60 years, died on Tuesday, February 5, 2019, at Holy Child Center in Rosemont. She was 80.

Born and raised in Waukegan, IL, Sister Loretta was the second daughter of Frank and Clara (Brozowski) Tiernan. Her sister Mary Ann was six years older. The Tiernans were a tightknit and happy family with grandparents and relatives living nearby. Sister Loretta attended Holy Child High School, where she first met the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus.



From an early age, Sister Loretta dreamed of having a family until she said “God stepped in.” It was during a high school senior year retreat that she felt a call to religious life. At first her parents were disappointed in the decision but they eventually gave their blessing and she entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in 1956. She became well known by the religious name Mother Mary Clarice. She made her final vows in 1964.

Much to her parent’s delight, Sister Loretta returned to the Mid-west to teach at Saint Veronica School (1959-1963); Saint Ignatius School (1963-1965); and Saint Anastasia School (1965-1967). In 1967, she taught one year at Saint Rose School in Portland, OR (1967-1968) before she was missioned to Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus in Pasadena, CA (1968-1977). In 1977, Sister Loretta returned to the Philadelphia area where she taught at Holy Child Academy in Sharon Hill, PA.

In 1979, Sister Loretta returned to Waukegan, IL, where she became a minister at Victory Hospital. Working in the hospital became a turning point in her life. She began a new ministry in pastoral care that extended for nearly three decades. She was named Pastoral Associate and Minister of Care at Saints Joseph and Bartholomew Parish, a predominately Spanish speaking community. The scope of her ministry grew as the parish consolidated with other parishes. She served people of all ages and visited the sick and aging. She also learned Spanish to lead Communion services when a priest was unavailable to celebrate Mass.

As her Parkinson disease progressed, Sister Loretta moved to Holy Child Center in 2009 where she heartily participated in activities and enjoyed her friendships. Maureen Duffy, SHCJ, shared that “Sister Loretta was always kind and gracious and had a sense of humor. She was a good listener and never complained even as the disease progressed.”

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Society of the Holy Child Jesus
AMERICAN PROVINCE

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She earned an undergraduate degree in history from Loyola University Chicago in 1965 and a master of arts in teaching math (MATM) degree from the University of Detroit in 1975.

Sister Loretta is survived by her dear sister Mary Ann Grazier. She is also survived by her nieces Diane Richardson (Gerald) and Heather Grazier (James) and her nephews Thomas Grazier (Susan) and Kenneth Grazier (Diane). Predeceased by her brother-in-law Robert L. Grazier and her nephews Barry J. Grazier and James R. Grazier.

Friends and family are invited to a prayer service of remembrance on Friday, February 8, at 4:00 p.m. and a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, February 9, 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 viewing at 10:00 a.m.

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.