

Sister Barbara Zilch, OSF

January 30, 1938 – September 23, 2019

Secular Name: Barbara Ann
Birth: January 30, 1938
Entrance: September 8, 1955
Parents: Robert and Florence
Siblings: Mary, James, Jane
Elementary School: St. Joseph Grade School
High School: St. Francis Academy/St. Mary's Academy
Higher Education: Bachelor degree from Duquesne University and Masters of Education Administration; St. Bonaventure University

Ministry:

From Barbara's Vocation Story: "Not wanting to attend an all-girls Catholic School, I did attend Bethel High School for one day! Not being at all comfortable with the size of the school and the atmosphere I experienced, I enrolled in St. Francis Academy and once again found myself under the direction of religious Sisters. This time, I found Sisters who showed light hearts and joyful spirits. When I saw them sled riding down the hill from the cemetery, I felt strongly there just might be a place for me with this Congregation.

Sister Barbara taught primary grades for twenty years, the last six at Mt. St. Peter in New Kensington, where in 1979 she became the principal. She earned her Bachelor degree from Duquesne University in 1962 and Masters of Education in Administration St. Bonaventure University in Franciscan studies. Sister Barbara also trained to be a massage therapist at Community College but never fully used that skill.

Teacher, principal, infirmarian, Provincial Counselor, Director of the Franciscan Spirit and Life Center and the Associates, President of the Franciscan Child Day Care Center Board, Moderator of the St. Francis Academy Alumnae Association, Sister Barbara gave her all in the spirit of St. Francis. Her search for God was evident in many faith sharing times. Serving in congregational leadership was challenging but Sister Barbara met the challenge well.

Sister Barbara was truly dedicated to the Franciscan charism, always seeking to know God's will for her. She was a quiet and thoughtful person but also was fun-loving. She also had a great love for music. She requested the song "Time to Say Good-bye" which was almost entirely in Italian, be played at her wake service. Sister Barbara knew that it was her time to say good-bye and begin her everlasting life with her Creator God.

The Lord is good to those who wait, to the soul that seeks God.