

Alleluia!

Sister M. Barbara Scholtes, OSF

Sister Barbara Scholtes was born in Joliet, Illinois on November 11, 1908 to Nicholas and Barbara Fonck Scholtes. She was baptized Marie Johanna at St. John's Church in Joliet. Marie had ten brothers and sisters: Catherine, Agnes, August, Ferdinand, Henry, Nicholas, Peter, William and Catherine and Joseph, who died in infancy. Today only William survives, along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins, one of whom is our own Sister Rosemary Fonck.

Marie graduated from St. John's Grade School and St. Francis Academy and attended one year of commercial school before beginning her postulancy on February 2, 1930. On August 12, 1930 she was received into the novitiate and received the name of Sister Mary Barbara.

After first profession of vows on August 12, 1932, Sister Barbara began her 51 years as an educator. She taught at various parish schools in Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania, including seven years at St. Mary's in Columbus, Ohio and five years at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Chicago, Illinois. In her hometown of Joliet, she taught Grade 3 at Holy Family for three years and worked for four years teaching adults at the St. Peter Claver Center.

Sister Barbara was a good teacher and loved her ministry of education. When once asked to name a poor and powerless person in her life, she said, "There are many kinds of poor.... We teachers have worked diligently to alleviate the 'poor in knowledge' by graduating students who would be good, intellectual citizens.... I've had the 'learning our language' group in two schools in South Chicago and worked four years in the adult school in downtown Joliet. So, I've seen what it's really like 'not to know.' I don't have one person to write about, there are many."



In 1983 Sister Barbara retired to St. Francis Academy. She stayed there until the sisters' residence closed in 1990 and she moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. Though retired, Sister Barbara tutored for many years in the St. Francis Reading Center and took care of the sisters' dining room, both at St. Francis Academy and Our Lady of Angels. Sister Barbara was widely read and loved to converse on many subjects. She was well versed in the history of Joliet and never tired of talking about it. And, of course, she was most devoted to her beloved family.

All of her life, except for curvature of the spine, Sister Barbara was in good health. If she was in pain from this condition, she never complained. This past Christmas season she was not feeling well and she underwent surgery from which she never recovered. Just hours after returning to Our Lady of Angels from the hospital on January 16, Sister Barbara quietly ended her earthly journey and went home to her God.

Sister Barbara we thank you for your 70 years of dedicated service as teacher, as friend, as sister. As you begin your eternity with the God whom you served so faithfully, continue to remember us, your family, your friends and your Franciscan sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

Sister M. Barbara Scholtes, OSF
11 November 1908 - 16 January 2001

Born: November 11, 1908, Joliet, Illinois 808
Parents: Nicholas and Mary (Fonck) Scholtes
Entered From: St. John the Baptist, Joliet, Illinois
Postulancy: February 2, 1930
Novitiate: August 12, 1930
Profession: August 12, 1932
Entered New Life: Tuesday, January 16, 2001, at Our Lady of Angels at 8:15 p.m.

Ministry History

1932 - 1933 Teacher, Grade 4; St. Boniface, Chicago, IL
 1933 - 1936 Teacher, Grade 1; St. Francis of Assisi, Chicago, IL
 1936 - 1937 Domestic Ministry; Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH
 1937 - 1944 Teacher, Grade 4; St. Mary, Columbus, OH
 1944 - 1945 Teacher, Grade 2; St. Peter, Mansfield, OH
 1945 - 1949 Teacher, Grades 4,5,6 & 7; St. Mary, Columbus, OH
 1949 - 1954 Teacher, Grades 3,5,6,7 & 8; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL
 1954 - 1956 Teacher, Grades 5,6; St. Joseph, Freeport, IL
 1956 - 1958 Teacher, Grade 8; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL
 1958 - 1959 Teacher, Grade 7; St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL
 1959 - 1962 Teacher, Grades 7, 8; St. Clement, Chicago, IL
 1962 - 1963 Teacher, Grade 7; St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH
 1963 - 1964 Teacher, Grade 7; St. Stephen, Streator, IL
 1964 - 1968 Teacher, Grade 6; St. Peter, Mansfield, OH
 1968 - 1971 Teacher, Grade 5; St. Mary, DesPlaines, IL
 1971 - 1975 Teacher, Adult and tutoring; St. Peter Claver, Joliet, IL
 1975 - 1976 Teacher, CCD; Holy Trinity, Westmont IL
 1976 - 1980 Teacher, Grade 4; St. Joseph, Elgin, IL
 1980 - 1983 Teacher, Grade 3; Holy Family, Joliet, IL
 1983 - 1990 Retired; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
 1990 - 2001 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Wake: Friday, January 19, 2001, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Friday, January 19, 2001, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels
Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, January 19, 2001, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels
Burial: Saturday, January 20, 2001; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m.
 to St. John's Cemetery, Joliet, IL
Interment Section C-L489-G3, St. John's Cemetery
Survived by: William (Dorothy) Scholtes, brother, and numerous nieces, nephews and
 cousins, including Fr. Benet Fonck, OFM and Sister Rosemary Fonck OSF.

Rest in Peace, Sister Barbara