

Alleluia!

Sister M. Barbara Jean Rivera, OSF



Sister Barbara Jean Rivera was born on May 5, 1931, to Manuel and Agnes (Videtic) Rivera in Joliet, Illinois. She was baptized Rita Joann at St. Joseph Parish and attended the parish grammar school. Rita then became an aspirant and graduated from St. Francis Academy. It was on September 2, 1947, that Rita became a postulant; her reception as a novice was celebrated on August 12, 1948, and at that time she received the name, Sister Mary Barbara Jean. She professed her temporary vows in 1950 and her final vows in 1953. Sister Barbara Jean received a Bachelor's degree in History from the College of St. Francis, a Master of Arts degree in Theology from the Seraphic Institute at the College of St. Francis, and attended many workshops and courses at Northern Illinois University, Barat College and other places of learning.

Teaching primary grades in Illinois and Ohio was her ministry focus for twenty-five years. During her teaching years, she was sometimes known as Sister Barbara Jean and at other times, she was known as Sister Rita. Eventually, Sister Barbara Jean, or BJ as we lovingly called her, was the name that she returned to and was known for the rest of her life. BJ was a quiet, reserved person who loved life, enjoyed being with her sisters and her family, liked watching sports, relaxed listening to music and filled spare moments reading or working on various handiwork pieces.

After teaching, Sister Barbara Jean was a clerical assistant to the Central Administration at the Motherhouse from 1973-1994, performing many necessary tasks and being a gift to all with whom she worked. In 1994, she became the secretary in the Public Relations and Development Office at OLA, a ministry that she served in so faithfully until a short time before her death. Once again, she performed whatever was needed in that office and was appreciated

greatly by Mr. Craig Tuntland, Director of Public Relations/Development Department.

B.J. was not feeling well for some time but was a faithful visitor and companion to her mother, who died just a short time ago. She continued to support her mother in whatever way she could. It was only recently that B.J. became a hospice patient and endured her suffering with a smile on her face. Many of us can picture her as we were sitting around her bedside. She would periodically open her eyes, smile and return to a peaceful state. During OLA's liturgy on Corpus Christi Sunday, Sister Barbara Jean went to the arms of her God that she loved and served all of her life. She is now at home with her mother, father and other family members, relatives, sisters in community and friends who preceded her in death. We pray in a special way for her loving and faithful brother, Gene. We pray that he may be restored to full health. We pray for Gene's family, for his wife, Judy, and for her nieces and nephews whom she loved deeply and referred to so often, Dani, Richard, Philip, Kassie and Scott, and her many grand-nieces and grand-nephews. We pray for her cousins, Abbot Dismas Kalcic, OSB, Father Michael Monshau, OP, and our sisters, Sisters Patricia and Margaret Mc Guckin.

Sister Barbara Jean, we thank you for your kind and gentle heart that you shared with us. We thank you for all the ways in which you cared for God's people. May you experience the love and warmth of our God for all eternity. Amen. Alleluia.

Sister M. Barbara Jean Rivera, OSF

May 5, 1931 — June 10, 2007

Born: May 5, 1931, in Joliet
Parents: Manuel and Agnes (Videtich) Rivera
Postulancy: September 2, 1947
Novitiate: August 12, 1948
First Profession: August 12, 1950
Final Profession: August 13, 1953
Entered New Life: June 10, 2007

Ministry History

1950—1953 Teacher; Grades 2 and 3: SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago
1953—1954 Teacher; Grade 3: Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago
1954—1955 Teacher; Grade 2: St. Stephan, Streator, Illinois and Immaculate Conception, Toledo, Ohio
1955—1957 Teacher; Grade 2: Corpus Christi, Mansfield, Ohio
1960—1961 Teacher; Grade 1: St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1961—1963 Teacher; Grade 1: St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, Ohio
1963—1967 Teacher; Grade 1: St. Francis Xavier, Chicago
1967—1970 Teacher; Grade 1: St. Rita, Aurora, Illinois
1970—1973 Teacher; Grades 1 and 2: Holy Family, Joliet
1973—1975 Teacher; Grades 1 and 2: Holy Family, Joliet and St. Jude, New Lenox
1975—1994 Clerical Assistant: Sisters of St. Francis, Joliet
1994—2007 Secretary: Our Lady of Angels Development Office, Joliet

Wake: Thursday, June 14, 2007, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Thursday, June 14, 2007, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, June 14, 2007, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Burial: Friday, June 15, 2007, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment: S8-L6-G2 Resurrection Cemetery
Predeceased by: Her parents Manuel and Agnes (Videtich) Rivera
Survived by: Her brother Eugene J. Rivera (Judy), nieces, nephews and cousins.

Rest in Peace, Sister Barbara Jean