

Sister Barbara Fisher, OP



Born to Earthly Life on November 16, 1931

First Profession on August 15, 1952

Entered Eternal Life on May 18, 2022

BARBARA JOAN FISHER was born on November 16, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan, the youngest of the four children born to Edward and Mary Darga-Fisher. She was dearly loved by her three older siblings, Mary, Christine and Tom. It was her sister, Mary, who introduced Barbara to the Racine Dominicans. Mary was a member of the Racine Dominican Community, and Barbara experienced the Sisters as being very happy and welcoming whenever she visited Mary in Racine.

She too felt the call to religious life and made her first profession in 1952 and final profession in 1958. She was known as S. Rose Anthony until the time of Vatican II, when she returned to her baptismal name of S. Barbara.

S. Barbara received a B.S. in Education from Dominican College in 1962 and a Master's Degree in Education and Administration from University of Dayton, Ohio in 1970. S. Barbara taught middle and upper elementary grades at schools in Michigan and Wisconsin, including St. Rita in Racine. She also served as principal at St. Victor in Monroe, Wisconsin. She loved her students and they thought the world of her as well. A former student wrote, "she was the best teacher I ever had, and I have a master's degree, so I have had a lot of teachers!"

S. Barbara continued working in education as the Community Supervisor of Schools for the Milwaukee area before becoming the Director of Religious Education for St. John Parish in South Milwaukee and then St. Bernard Parish in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She loved helping with formation and celebrating the sacraments with parishioners of all ages.

In 1985 S. Barbara moved back to Michigan to help care for her parents, and began serving as a Pastoral Associate at St. Joseph Parish in South Lyon. She loved parish work because it gave her the chance to connect with families and use her skills to help those who were struggling.

Upon her return to Racine, S. Barbara was asked to become the Formation Director for the Racine Dominicans. For the next five years, she accompanied the newest members of the Racine Dominican community in discernment of their vocation to religious life. She then served as the Executive Director of Bethany Apartments, one of the community's sponsored ministries, serving the needs of women and children who were victims of domestic violence and abuse.

Always looking for ways to be of service and to share her gifts, S. Barbara worked as an assistant in the Siena Retreat Center, a Pastoral Associate at Sacred Heart and as a Pastoral Companion at Siena Center. She volunteered at HOPES Center as a receptionist, Shorelight Memory Care and managed the Siena Swap Shop. She loved gardening and cooking, both of which were lifelong passions.

S. Barbara was a woman of deep faith and she treasured her prayer and retreat times. She was always inquiring about the welfare of others and reaching out to those who needed comfort or companionship. We are thankful for S. Barbara and for her powerful witness to the Dominican charism and all the ways that she cared for her family, her Sisters and her community.

