



Society of the Holy Child Jesus  
AMERICAN PROVINCE

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### **Mary Jane Hicks, SHCJ**

Teacher, Administrator, Pastoral Associate

July 10, 1932 – February 24, 2017

Rosemont, Pennsylvania – Mary Jane Hicks, SHCJ, who was a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus for 62 years, died of pulmonary disease on Friday, February 24, 2017, at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, PA.

Born in Chicago, IL, Sister Mary Jane met with sadness early in life when her mother passed away. While this loss was very difficult, Sister Mary Jane's move to her grandmother's home brought her to the Holy Child Sisters who taught her at St. Veronica School. After graduating from Alvernia High School and working as a secretary for two years, she entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in 1951. Sister Mary Jane made her final vows in 1959 and became well known by her religious name Mother Mary Collette.

Sister Mary Jane's teaching ministry spanned 22 years. She taught at St. Anastasia School in Waukegan, IL (1954-1961). She became principal of St. Patrick School in Wadsworth, IL (1961-1967) and St. Veronica School (1967-1970). She taught at Holy Child High School in Waukegan, IL (1970-1973) before moving to Old Westbury, NY, to teach at Holy Child Academy (1973-1974). In 1974, she returned to Chicago to teach at St. Ignatius School for one year (1974-1975) and then serve as the school secretary for another year (1975-1976).

Beginning in 1976, Sister Mary Jane served as a school secretary at Annunciation School in Washington, D.C. (1976-1979), was a pastoral assistant at St. Bridget Church in Westbury, NY (1979-1983), and business manager at the Holy Child provincial offices in Drexel Hill, PA (1983-1986). She then spent ten years as a pastoral associate, first at Holy Cross Parish in Las Cruces, NM (1987-1993) and then at Queen of Peace Parish in Chicago, IL (1993-1996).

A move to Rome, Italy, was next, where for five years, Sister Mary Jane served her community in several ways while managing the household budget. She relished experiencing other cultures and visiting with Holy Child Sisters in Europe and Africa.

Upon returning to Pennsylvania in 2001, Sister Mary Jane volunteered at Holy Child School at Rosemont and taught English as a Second Language at Providence Center in Philadelphia. Until recently, she continued volunteering at Holy Child School at Rosemont and joyfully participated in local activities, especially at Holy Child Center and Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Bryn Mawr. At her 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2015, Sister Mary Jane gave thanks to God in the words of the psalmist: "I will celebrate your love forever, and your faithfulness age after age."

Sister Mary Jane earned a bachelor of arts degree in history from Barat College in Lake Forest, IL, and a master's degree in secondary education from Notre Dame University in South Bend, IN, in 1961 and 1967, respectively.

She was the loving daughter of the late Herbert Joseph and Isabel (Doyle) Hicks. She now joins her parents in eternal life. She is survived by two sisters, Frances Hicks, OSF, and Carol Ruehl (Robert), and her brother Laurence J. (Judy), and several nieces and nephew.

Friends and family are invited to a prayer service of remembrance on Monday, February 27, at 4:00 p.m., and to the Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, February 28, at 11:00 a.m., at New Sharon Chapel, 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA, 19010. Preceding Mass, friends and family are welcome to attend the wake at 10:00 a.m. Funeral arrangements are handled by Donohue Funeral Home.

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](http://www.shcj.org/american/donate).