



Society of the Holy Child Jesus
AMERICAN PROVINCE

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Rosemary McSorely, SHCJ

Educator, Lawyer, Pastoral Minister
January 31, 1932 – December 2, 2016

Rosemont, Pennsylvania – Rosemary (Roey) McSorely, SHCJ, who was a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus for 63 years, died of heart failure on Friday, December 2, 2016, at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, PA.

According to Terri MacKenzie, SHCJ, Sister Roey was like a moonbeam. “While you can’t catch a moonbeam, you appreciate it, you marvel at the way it shines, you enjoy it, and you are grateful for it. This is why I connect Roey with moonbeams, because her light, her joy, her generosity were reflections of God’s light. I learned a lot about giving from Roey. If there was a need, no matter the obstacles, she acted. She was always a friend and advocate for those on the margins.”

Sister Rosemary was the youngest of a large Irish Catholic Philadelphia family where she was called Roey, the name she preferred throughout her life. Like her older sisters, Therese and Anne, she attended St. Leonard’s Academy. After graduation she struggled with her vocation, uncertain about joining her sister Eleanor as a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; or Mary who was a Sister of Mercy; or Therese who was then Mother St. John, SHCJ. In 1950, Sister Roey decided to become a Holy Child Sister where she became well known by the religious name Mother Mary Beata. After profession, she was missioned to St. Mary School in Melrose, MA.

Of her 20 years of teaching, she spent most of her time in three schools: St. Leonard’s Academy in Philadelphia; St. Ignatius School in Chicago; and Our Lady of Lourdes, New York City. She also taught at St. Anastasia School in Waukegan, IL and St. Patrick School, in Wadsworth, IL. She joked of being “yo-yoed” back and forth from the east coast to the mid-west.

In 1972 Roey volunteered for the Society's ministry in Chile, resulting in her being there when the elected government was overthrown and a reign of terror followed. On her return to the United States, she began parish ministry in Summit, NJ.

In 1978, Sister Roey began an assignment that lasted 33 years at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Pompton Plains, NJ. There Sister Roey served as Director of Religious Education, Pastoral Minister, Choir Director, and Liturgy Coordinator. During these years, she attended Seton Hall Law School and passed the New Jersey bar in 1992. For 15 years, Sister Roey practiced non-profit family law as part of her parish ministry.

In retirement to Marian Woods in New York, Sister Roey liked to quote her dear mother, who wanted to spend every moment thanking God for all the love and care showered upon her. Sister Roey echoed this sentiment as a Holy Child Sister.

In addition to earning a law degree, Sister Roey received an undergraduate degree in secondary education from Villanova University in 1961 and a master's degree in Theology from Manhattan College in 1971.

She was the loving daughter of the late Richard and Marguerita (Cosgrove) McSorely. She now joins her parents and 14 siblings in eternal life. She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends and family are invited to a prayer service of remembrance on Friday, December 9, at 4:00 p.m., and to the Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, December 10, 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, 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA 19010, or make a gift online at www.shcj.org/american/donate.