
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Julia Mary Murphy, OP

Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." -

~Revelations 14:13

In the early evening of April 19th, 2016 God called Sister Julia Murphy to her eternal home. Sister was 86 years old and had been a faithful member of the Amityville Dominican Congregation for 65 years.

The daughter of James and Mary Murphy, both born in Ireland, Johanna Cecilia was born on January 24, 1930 in New York. The family lived in Elmhurst, Queens, NY. Johanna came in contact with the Dominican Sisters while living in Ascension Parish in Queens but came to know them well when she attended Bishop Mc Donnell Memorial High School, Brooklyn, NY. She entered the Novitiate in Amityville on September 8, 1948, was invested with the habit and given the name Sister Julia Mary on August 5, 1949. After taking first vows on August 5, 1950, Sister Julia Mary received her first teaching assignment to the parish elementary school of All Saints, Brooklyn, NY. This was the first of her many teaching assignments in her early days of educational ministry, a ministry which she loved and continued throughout her life. She also taught in the parish elementary schools of: St. Hugh, Huntington Station; Cure of Ars, Merrick; St. Agnes, Rockville Centre; and, St. Catherine of Sienna, Franklin Square. In 1973 Julia was assigned to teach secondary education at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School in West Islip, NY where she remained for many years.

Having received her B.A. from Molloy College and an M.S. from LIU CW Post College, Sister Julia was especially prepared to teach Social Studies which she loved. For most of her time at St. John's Diocesan High School she taught Social Studies but was called upon from time to time to teach some courses in the sciences. Social Studies was her favorite course, however, and she taught her courses with precision of content, a sense of humor, and compassion especially for students who had some difficulty with the subject.

In an article in the school paper, The Prophet, from 1993 written by then student John Sureau, now



Reverend John Sureau of the diocese of Rockville Centre, he described an honor Sister Julia had received. Sister Julia Murphy was honored in the Who's Who Among American Teachers in 1990. She was selected by former students who are listed in the Who's Who Among American Students or the National Dean's List. In an interview with Sister, she stated that one of her favorite parts of St. John's was her students.

The article also contained testimonials from two of her former students who indicated that she treated the students as one of her own children and was the best teacher they had ever had. Sister Julia had a special fondness for the students who needed extra help and gave it to them as often as she could. In addition to her teaching, Sister Julia volunteered time during several summers as a counselor at a nursery camp for three and four year olds held at the time at La Salle Military Academy in Oakdale, NY. As time went on and health diminished, Sister limited her work to tutoring at St. John's High School

In March of 2015 Sister Julia's failing health necessitated her full retirement from St. John's. With the help of her faithful friend, Sister Marie Happ, she enjoyed some time attending the program for elders at Center Light on the Motherhouse property and was grateful to the staff for their kindness and care. In September of 2015 further health issues necessitated her joining the community in Carlin Hall at the Motherhouse where she deeply appreciated the care she received from the pastoral, nursing and aide staff.

Sister Julia is survived by her brother Jack Murphy and his wife Mary, her sisters-in-law Karen and Theresa, her extended family and the Dominican Sisters of Amityville.

All services will be in St. Albert's Chapel at the Motherhouse. The wake will take place on Friday, April 22, 2016 from 3-5p.m. and 7-9p.m. Following Morning Prayer on Saturday, April 23, 2016, the Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Burial in the Sisters' cemetery will follow immediately after Mass.

