
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Bernadette Jones, OP

Sister Bernadette Jones was born to Paul and Bernadette Jones on March 13, 1951 and was baptized at St. Angela Merici Church in the Bronx. Shortly after, the family moved to St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Hicksville where she, her older brother, Paul, and younger sister, Ellen, were raised in a loving environment where extended family lived nearby, visited regularly, and assisted their father in the care of the children while their mother received treatment for polio. When Mrs. Jones was able to return to the full care of her family there was nothing she couldn't do—she even learned to drive! From her wheelchair she taught her children household tasks. This was surely the beginning of their sense of orderliness and prowess as “cleaners”. During these same years there were bonds of friendship made that continue to this day, one going back sixty years to kindergarten!

Sister Bernie, as she came to be known by most people, graduated from Hicksville H.S. and went on to Molloy College from which she graduated twice: first with a BS in Education and later a BSN in Nursing. She entered the Dominican Sisters, Congregation of the Holy Cross, Amityville on August 29, 1972. Her postulancy was spent at Notre Dame Convent in New Hyde Park and her novitiate in an inter-community setting in Dover, Massachusetts, Brentwood, N.Y. and the “cottage” in Amityville. She then taught at St. Margaret's School in Middle Village where it wasn't uncommon for her fourth grade students to ring the convent doorbell and ask if S. Bernie could come out to play ball with them.

In 1978, after the death of her mother, Bernie left the Congregation to assist her father while at the same time working at Komanoff Pavilion in Long Beach and pursuing her nursing degree at Molloy. After the death of her father, Bernie returned to the Congregation to the great joy of all the Sisters. She was assigned to St. Anthony Convent in Oceanside and began working at Mercy Hospital in Rockville Centre mainly in the medical-surgical unit with a specialty in orthopedics. After five years she was appointed by the Congregation as Director of Nursing Services for Carlin Hall, the Amityville Infirmary. S. Bernie referred to this time as her second novitiate, the period when she became rooted in the Congregation as she cared for these women of faith, all different, yet amazing witnesses. Their wisdom, experience, commitment and ultimate surrendering to the God they served made a lasting impact on Bernie who truly interiorized these virtues. She loved the Sisters in Carlin Hall and cared for them with devotion visiting each one every day. She worked with an exceptional staff of nurses and aides



My soul glorifies the Lord and
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

- Luke 1:46-55

who shared Bernie's passion for remembering that Carlin Hall was the Sisters' home as well as where they received care. One thing Bernie often expressed was that she stood on the shoulders of the Directors of Nursing who preceded her.

After serving in Amityville for seventeen years Bernie worked at Queen of Peace Residence in Queens Village, N.Y. When she was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in 2008 she had to give up bedside nursing because of her diminished immune system but this didn't stop her.

She then became Director of the Medicine Program at Dominican Village. After this she returned to teaching preparing the Medicine Program students who were in training to work for AHRC. She enormously enjoyed these eager learners and they in turn were grateful for her clever and clear methods.

Over eight years Bernie underwent every available treatment including multiple clinical trials for handling the disease of Myeloma. She was valiant in her positive attitude and determination to contribute to knowledge which may help others in the future.

At the end of Chapter 21 of his gospel, John says there were many more things that Jesus said and did but if they were all described he doesn't think the whole world would contain the books that were written. In Bernie's case at least one book could be written about her good works, compassion, dedication, commitment and courage. She thought of herself as a “process person,” but “discerning person” might be more apt. Perceptive, articulate, intelligent, straight forward and witty, she exercised good judgment and always sought the common good. She met a very high bar in her living of religious community and had a deep and trusting prayer life.

On the afternoon of August 26, 2016 Bernie died at home in Malverne quietly slipping away on her continuing journey of eternal life begun on the day of her baptism. She is survived by her brother, Paul, and sister-in-law, Linda, her sister, Ellen, and brother-in-law, Peter, her niece, Heather, and her nephews, Paul, Jr. (PJ), Keith and Jeffrey and an extended family of cousins as well as the Sisters of St. Dominic.

Services will take place in St. Albert Chapel of the Motherhouse in Amityville. The wake will begin with prayer services at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday, August 29, 2016. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated immediately following morning prayer at 10:10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 30, 2016. Burial will follow in the Sisters' cemetery.

