
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Elizabeth Ann Callahan, OP

(S. Elizabeth Mary)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

- *Colossians 3:23*

Late at night on Ash Wednesday, our beloved Sister Elizabeth Callahan was called home by the God she had loved and served for almost 75 years. She was 91 years old.

On July 20, 1932, Sherman and Mary Kathryn Kilcourse Callahan welcomed Elizabeth into their family. Known as Betty to family and friends, she and her siblings Sherman, Richard, Lawrence, Kathryn, and Mary were raised in Mineola, New York (NY).

On September 8, 1949, Betty entered the Novitiate at Amityville. She was clothed in the Dominican habit and received her religious name Sister Elizabeth Mary on August 4, 1950.

Betty's early teaching assignments were in elementary education at St. Catherine of Siena, St Alban's, NY; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lindenhurst, NY; St. Luke, Whitestone, NY; and Most Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, NY. From 1967 to 1970 she taught at Colegio Santa Rosa, Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

Betty was a quiet, prayerful, gentle woman. Sensing a call to contemplative life, in 1961 she transferred to Visitation Monastery in Mobile, Alabama where she remained until 1968. Upon her return to the congregation in

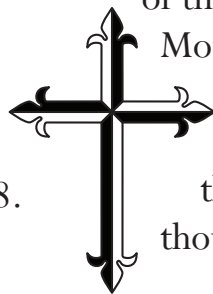


Amityville, she continued her teaching ministry at Corpus Christi, Mineola, NY and Annunciation, Brooklyn, NY.

She returned to Puerto Rico in 1970 and taught high school in San Antonio, Isabella. Her ministry in secondary education took her to St. Michael, Brooklyn; Maria Regina, Uniondale; and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Brooklyn. In 1978, she was appointed Principal at Little Flower, Montauk Beach, NY. For 11 years she demonstrated her administrative ability and creative approach to elementary education. These gifts were recognized and appreciated when she was honored for her work.

For more than two decades, Betty taught at Groveland Correctional Facility in Sonyea, NY and ministered to the prisoners there. As a life-long-learner herself, she sought out courses that would provide intellectual stimulation and cultural enrichment.

Betty loved singing and playing the piano and enjoyed steel drum music. She had a beautiful singing voice and was a member of the Huntington Chorale and of the Motherhouse Choir. She thoroughly enjoyed solo trips to New York City and equally enjoyed going to plays in the city with a sister friend. She was, though few would know, an artist. Betty



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was a humble person who relished art in all its forms. Thomas Merton wrote that “humility is the surest sign of strength.” Our Sister Betty Callahan was both humble and strong!

Betty loved her family, and her family loved her. She was predeceased by her parents and siblings. She is survived by her ten nieces, five nephews and their families, and by her loving sisters in community.

The services for our dear sister will take place on Friday, February 23, 2024, in St. Albert Chapel, Queen of the Rosary Motherhouse. There will be a prayer service at 10:15 AM. The Mass of Christian Burial at 10:45 AM will be followed immediately by interment in St. Dominic Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

*~May our beloved Betty be held in
the gentle arms of God~*
