
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Barbara Anne Seaward, OP

(S. John Robert)

“But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you...In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”

- Job 12:7-10

Early in the morning of April 3, 2024, our dear Sister Barbara Anne Seaward entered eternal life to be embraced by the God she had loved and served so well for almost 59 years. Barbara was 77 years old.



On May 22, 1947, Robert and Elizabeth (Gannon) Seaward welcomed their new baby daughter into the family. She was named Barbara Anne but was affectionately called Bobbie by her older sister Carole.

The family lived in Christ the King Parish in Springfield Gardens. Bobbie did not like dolls but really enjoyed playing with her stuffed animals. She also liked to read, to roller-skate, and to ride her bicycle around the neighborhood. Bobbie shared a close and loving relationship with her sister Carole. They spent several summers at their aunt's home in South Hampton and liked to go clamming at the beach.

After high school, Barbara entered the Amityville Dominican Congregation on September 12, 1965. A year later, she and the members of her set received the Dominican habit and their religious names. They became known as the “Marigolds”. Barbara was given the name Sister John Robert. On August 8, 1967, she professed vows of poverty, consecrated celibacy, and obedience.

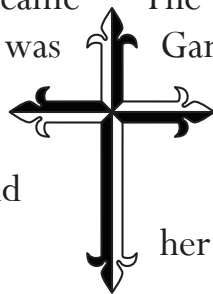
This gentle, compassionate young woman studied nursing at Molloy College and served in hospitals and schools in Nassau County as well as in our Dominican Motherhouse. In addition, she ministered with the Nursing Sisters Home Visiting Service of Rockville Centre.

Barbara's caring spirit and wonderful sense of humor helped relieve the stress and worry of so many of her patients. Her quick wit was appreciated not only by the sick but also by the sisters with whom she lived and shared community over the years.

The cruel disease of Multiple Sclerosis brought changes to Barbara's life. Her medical knowledge and love of animals started her on a new path. She rescued and adopted abused, handicapped, and unwanted birds and trained them for pet therapy at nursing homes, adult care centers, and schools throughout Long Island. This Wings of Love ministry brought joy to so many people.

Barbara also had other pets, all types of reptiles that she kept in covered fish tanks. The turtles in the Motherhouse Cloister Garden also received her loving care when she provided water and special turtle food.

Our dear sister enjoyed vacations with her friends especially if there were animals



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involved in their adventures. Her special bond with God's creatures was evident to all who saw her fearlessly interact with every animal they encountered. In addition to animals, Barbara had a special love of plants and knew exactly what each type needed to flourish.

Barbara's father, a retired Lieutenant in the New York City Police Department, visited her in Amityville on a regular basis and enjoyed lunch with his daughter and several other sisters in the dining room at the Motherhouse.

The last months of Barbara's life were not easy. She suffered greatly but was cared for lovingly by the nurses and aides in Carlin Hall. Her sense of humor was present even in these painful times. The wall clock in her room had a different bird call as each hour struck, and

she laughed when someone would be startled thinking a real bird was in the room.

Our beloved Barbara ~ Bobbie ~ will be dearly missed by her sister Carole, Carole's husband John, her nieces Michelle and Jenny, her nephew John, their spouses and children as well as other relatives. She leaves a void in the lives of her dear friends Denise Coscia and Mary Ellen Gibney as well as her Dominican sisters especially Marie Brady and Kathy Riordan.

The wake and funeral for our Sister Barbara will take place in St. Albert Chapel on Monday, April 8, 2024. Visitation will be at 9:45 AM with a Prayer Service at 10:15 AM followed by the Mass of Christian Burial and interment on St. Dominic Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.
