

Sisters of the Holy Family

Sister Geraldine Garbarino, SHF

Sister Geraldine Garbarino, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family for 77 years, died in the early morning hours of Thursday, August 13, 2020 at the age of 96 at the Sisters' Motherhouse in Fremont. Sister Geraldine was born on June 10, 1924, in Oakland, California. She entered the congregation from Sacred Heart Parish there on January 6, 1943, at the age of 18.



Sister Gigi, as she was popularly known, started out in catechetical ministry, first in San Francisco, then the dioceses of San Jose, Fresno and Reno, before returning to her home diocese of Oakland in 1963. In 1979 she served at the Alameda Naval Air Base in Alameda, ministering to the sick and aging. After one year there, she moved on to Our Lady of Grace Parish in Castro Valley, where she continued her ministry to the sick and elderly until her return to the motherhouse in Fremont in 1997. She did volunteer ministry with homeless people for awhile until she was no longer able to serve outside the community.

Sister Geraldine is remembered for her creative writing adventures in a class she took in Fremont, sharing the results with Sisters at the dining room table during meals. She was always ready, on a special occasion or no special occasion, to send a greeting card with a piece of candy or pretty picture to anyone, with a kind and cheerful message and the conclusion, "God bless you and me, too!"

Because of the sheltering restrictions imposed by the coronavirus, there will be no service right away. Sister Geraldine's cremains will be held until we are able to gather a small group for a service. Burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma.

*...to
seek out
and
advocate
for the
poor and
needy,
especially
families,



for the
kingdom
of God. . ."*