

# Sisters of the Holy Family

**Sister Barbara Sheahan**  
**September 29, 1931- August 6, 2024**



*Sister Barbara wrote her own obituary in 2017:*

I was born on September 29, 1931, in Las Vegas, Nevada, into a mining family with two older brothers and my parents. Our home was the Groom Mine, out of Las Vegas about 100 or so miles.

Our father ran several other mining operations, but primarily our Groom Mine, which is located in the face of the mountains. A desert and a massive dry lake were in the valley below. We thought, as kids, that the huge desert below and around us belonged just to us.

We found out differently during World War 2 when the Air Force moved in with its bombs, bombers and machine-gun-loaded fighter planes. Many of the young service men in training lived in our cabins at our mine from time to time. Our family was very patriotic and endured machine guns accidentally shooting into our camp from training planes, even though our Dad complained loudly. Then after World War 2, atomic bombs were tested and set off in the next valley – we were still patriotic but afraid as well.

During this time I was sent to boarding school in Salt Lake City, Utah, graduating from St. Mary of the Wasatch. Some of the girls after graduation decided to enter the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who taught at St. Mary's. I decided on Holy Family community, as I had known our Sisters in Las Vegas when going to school there. I loved them and their spirit. I entered from our mining property, with my brother driving me to San Francisco in January of 1952.

I remained working in community and in catechetics until 1967, when the Lord led me in another direction for fifteen years. After working for the State of Nevada and caring for my parents in their last illnesses until

43543 Mission Boulevard, P.O. Box 3248, Fremont, CA 94539  
Phone: 510-624-4596, Fax: 510-624-4550  
Web Site: [www.holyfamilysisters.org](http://www.holyfamilysisters.org)

*"...to  
seek out  
and  
advocate  
for the  
poor and  
needy,  
especially  
families,  
for the  
kingdom  
of God."*



their deaths, I realized that I belonged back in Holy Family community and was accepted once more.

What wonderful years these have been, and what wonderful things the Lord has let me experience. I have worked as hospital chaplain, pastoral care sister in homes and care centers, and day home receptionist. I thank our loving God for every single day he has given me, using me to help his people. What a wonderful life it has been – thanks be to God and my sisters.

*Update:* Sister Barbara died peacefully on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at the Holy Family Motherhouse in Fremont. There will be a memorial service on Wednesday, September 25, at 10:30 am in the Oratory, followed by a graveside service and burial at 2:00 pm at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma.