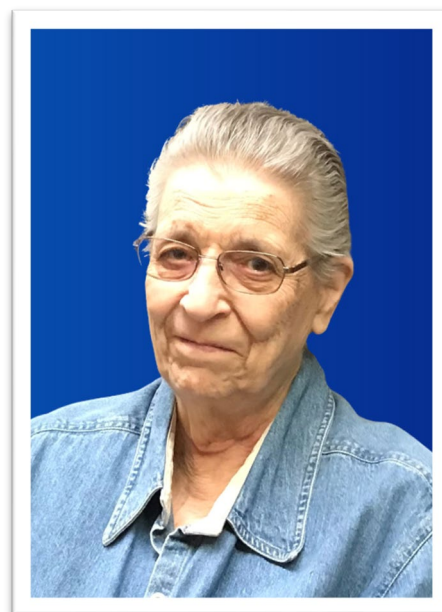


Sister Ethel Beneville, SC

Entered eternal life on January 30, 2025

Sister Ethel Beneville was born in Dumont, NJ the daughter of Paul and Ethel (Bowers) Beneville. Ethel entered the SCs on September 6, 1956, a faithful member for 68 years. Ethel came from a large family, she was predeceased by her brothers Raymond, Vernon and Paul, sisters Florence Cudworth and Carol Hansen. Her niece Jackie has been very faithful to Ethel over these years as well as her children John and Kendyl. Ethel particularly enjoyed the visits with John, his wife Tara and their son John. Ethel has many family members who could not be here today -they are throughout the US and Canada - hopefully some have been able to join us through the live streaming.



Ethel's life was not an easy one in many ways, she suffered the loss of her mother as a Junior in high school which had a significant impact on her life. She found in the Sisters of Charity she met in her school years - women of faith who were compassionate, hardworking, caring and always available with a listening heart. This led her to enter the Sisters of Charity in 1956. Some of the Sisters she entered with are with us today for this celebration.

Ethel served for many years as a teacher both at the elementary level and at the secondary level. At the secondary level she was a business teacher and religion teacher. I first met Ethel when she was a teacher at St. Joseph's in Paterson and I was at St. John's in Paterson – in those days there was quite a rivalry between the schools in basketball!

I remember her excitement at being part of the religious studies program at Seattle University in its beginning years – she shared with me how she was energized and challenged what she learned there. We shared a love for the faith formation of teens and adults. She received her MA from Seattle University in 1974.

She also served at the College of Saint Elizabeth and at the Children's Center at Morristown Memorial Hospital. For some 15 years, she served as a volunteer in some of our Congregational Offices. She liked to keep busy!

Ethel lived here at the Motherhouse for 47 years. She was very gifted as an artist and a writer. In fact, her memorial cared has both her art work and a quote of hers that was used in a series of note cards that we did a few years ago. She loved planning the Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter Triduum liturgies that were celebrated

here in Holy Family Chapel and was responsible for the planning and coordinating for the annual retreats for the Motherhouse community. Ethel also was generous in sharing her artistic skills in creating centerpieces for the various holidays and feastdays for the Motherhouse Dining Room in collaboration other Sisters, especially with S. Mary Culhane. This community was important with to her in so many ways.

It was interesting to me that the readings Ethel chose for the prayer service we had earlier this morning spoke of God's care but also of suffering - Ethel's health was a challenge for her. She truly struggled with it. St. Benedict tells us to "Keep death daily before one's eyes". In some ways, that is a very sobering thought. Yet, I think that in many ways, Ethel was particularly aware of this, especially over these last few years in which she suffered failing health. In fact, she made the decision after her last hospitalization that she would remain in McAuley Hall, the nursing home of the Sisters of Mercy where she had gone for Rehab. She recognized that it was no longer possible for her to get the care she needed at the Motherhouse. Although, it was a short time, it was a blessed time for her. Since 2021 several of our Sisters have been residents there and have received excellent care

In our second reading from the 2nd Letter of Timothy we heard the line – "I have competed well, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith". Ethel, you did that faithfully as a Sister of Charity over these 68 years. We know that you will receive the reward for your labors – may you rest in peace.

S. Maureen Shaughnessy, SC