



Immaculata DiBlasi, SHCJ

August 17, 1927 – September 10, 2018
Teacher, Administrator, and Counselor

Rosemont, Pennsylvania – Immaculata DiBlasi, SHCJ, who was a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus for 69 years, died of cardiac arrest on September 10, 2018, in Rosemont, PA. She was 91.



Born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, Sister Immaculata was the second of ten children born to Gaetano and Angelina (Pescatore) DiBlasi. She grew up with a strong sense of family and tradition that included playing hopscotch and jumping rope with her siblings; her mother preparing homecooked meals; her father, an expert tailor, sewing winter coats for the family; visits to her grandparents every Saturday; and a love of Philadelphia parades.

Sister Immaculata first met the Holy Child Sisters at her alma mater John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School. After graduation, she worked as a clerk for two years before entering the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. She made her final vows in 1954 and became well known by her religious name Mother Maria Immaculata.

Her teaching ministry began at Saint James School in Philadelphia (1949-1951), Saint Anastasia School in Waukegan, IL (1951-1954), and Saint Edward School in Philadelphia (1954-1955). She was then missioned to Portland, OR, where she served at Saint Rita School (1955-1957 and 1959-1968) and Saint Charles School (1957-1959). During her time on the west coast, Sister Immaculata's visits to Philadelphia were rare, so it was a joy to have her parents travel to Portland to see her.

In 1968, Sister Immaculata returned to the Philadelphia area and began a new ministry -- she became a guidance counselor at Archbishop Prendergast High School in Upper Darby. She served there for six years before moving to Saint Leonard's Academy in Philadelphia as a counselor. For the next three years she worked in the admissions office at Rosemont College, and in 1985, was guidance counselor at St. Joseph's Preparatory School, a post she cherished and held until 1997.

In 1998, Sister Immaculata was asked to serve as the Sisters' Retirement Planning Coordinator in the American Province. She provided workshops and conducted personal interviews with Sisters facing retirement.

In 2013, Sister Immaculata moved to Holy Child Center where she was often found greeting staff and visitors with her big smile.

She graduated from Villanova University with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education and a master's degree in counseling in 1955 and 1971, respectively. She also earned a master's degree in education from Gonzaga University in 1964.

Sister Immaculata joins her parents and siblings, Rosalind (Moziani), Leonilda (Hunt), Paul, Enrico, Richard, and Peter and his spouse Julia in eternal life. She is survived by her sisters Philomena (Marino), Rae DiBlasi, and Mildred (Ricchiuti), and sisters-in-laws Terri DiBlasi, Esther DiBlasi, and Carol DiBlasi, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Friends and family are invited to a prayer service of remembrance on Friday, September 14, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. and to a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, September 15, at 11:00 a.m., at Holy Child Chapel, 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA, 19010. Reverend Thomas Duffy, Sister Immaculata's dear friend, will preside at the funeral Mass. Preceding Mass, friends and family are welcome to attend the viewing at 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Society of the Holy Child Jesus – American Province, 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA 19010, or make a gift online at www.shcj.org/american/donate.