



Sister Bernadette Pabon

February 10, 1946 - June 22, 2022

Sister (Awilda) Bernadette Pabon, sscm, was born on February 10, 1946, to Carmen (Torres Gutierrez) and Alfredo Oquendo in Caguas, Puerto Rico. She was born to eternal life on June 22, 2022.

Prior to becoming a member of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, Sister was married to Nobel Pabon, who predeceased her, and mother to four sons: Frank, Joseph, Rey, and Robert who survive her.

Her early years were not easy. Because of the death of her mother when Bernadette was a toddler, she and her sister lived in many foster homes. As a teen, she matriculated at Holy Family Academy in Beaverville, IL where she met the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. Their loving attitude drew Bernadette to religious life. Before that dream was realized, she met Nobel Pabon, married, and raised a family. For more than three decades, Bernadette served as a catechist and trainer in the Archdiocese of Chicago. She was director of religious education at Holy Rosary parish, Chicago, for 33 years.

When her husband died and with her sons raised, Bernadette realized she was free to pursue a call to religious life. Sister Bernadette made her vows on September 20, 2020. Her ministries have included eldercare in Batavia, Vacation Bible School in Hopkins Park Our Daily Bread in Champaign St. John Paul II parish catechesis in Kankakee, and most recently, the Women of Peace, a group of women transitioning into life in the United States.

Sister Bernadette derived joy from doing things for others and making them happy. She was a tireless storyteller and loved children very much.

Sister had great faith, outstanding generosity, and love that left out no one who crossed her path.

She is survived by her sons, Frank, Rey, Joseph (Cynthia), Robert (Alejandra), her daughter-in-law, Toni Pabon; grandchildren, Bella Reyes, Maya Pabon, Bobby Pabon, Spencer Pabon, Elijah Pabon, Chandler Pabon, Pedro Quinones, Lisette Pabon, Nikko Roman, Natalie Pabon; her brothers Alfred (Nellie) Oquendo, Jose (Margo) Oquendo; her sister, Hedda Vazquez; her uncle, Emilio Oquendo; her nieces and nephews; her adopted family the Suprenants; her religious family, The Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary; and many friends.

Wake will be held on Saturday, July 2, 2022, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, Beaverville, IL. Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. with burial to follow.

Donations in her memory may be made to Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary at 2041 West State Route 113, Kankakee, IL 60901.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

Beaverville, IL 60912

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Beaverville, IL

<http://www.stmaryschurchbeaverville.com/>

Funeral Mass

JUL 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Beaverville, IL

<http://www.stmaryschurchbeaverville.com/>

Tribute Wall

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“ I remember her staying up late to finish sewing costumes for the children’s Christmas play in Hopkins park where she was assigned for ministry. I offered to help press one but she said the fabric needed special handling. She was such a perfectionist in all that she did. I’m glad I got to meet her in my lifetime. She was definitely special. She was never at a loss for creative ideas. Sr. Bernadette will be sadly missed by all. My deeply felt sympathy to the Pabon family. ❤️



Ellie Bennish - June 30 at 10:52 PM