

Sister Carol Hoban, SC
Entered eternal life on January 12, 2025

Carol, Sis, Sr. Kathleen Teresa, Aunt Sissy – however we knew her, we knew a generous, gifted and caring woman. Carol was born at St. Joseph Hospital in Paterson, NJ in 1941 and grew up in nearby Rochelle Park attending Sacred Heart elementary school. Two brothers, Paul (who is able to be with us today) and Bob, were her early companions. Carol's parents, Annabelle and Paul, owned a delicatessen where Carol learned basic culinary skills early, as she helped out in the deli after school. Over many years her family, friends, and sisters she lived with have benefited from these delicious homemaking skills.

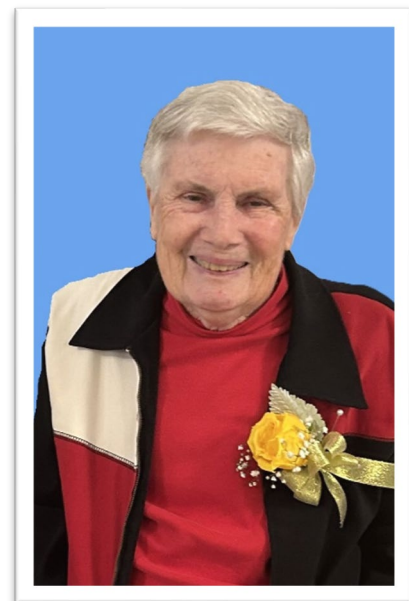
After graduating from Immaculate Conception High School in Lodi in 1959, Carol entered the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth here at Convent Station. She knew from the get-go that she wanted to be a nurse; however, she was first sent to study history at the College of Saint Elizabeth, now St. Elizabeth University. Then, in 1963, upon completing her B.A. in History, Carol was missioned at St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven where she attended the School of Nursing and received her RN. For a few years Carol served first as a staff nurse and then as a head nurse at St. Raphael's. She was then sent to study for her MSN at the University of Pennsylvania. While at graduate school in Philadelphia Carol lived with 2 Maryknoll sisters who had served in the Philippines. This is where Carol picked up her Chinese cooking skills.

A driving impulse of Carol's life was to help those in need. Upon graduation in 1972 Carol moved to Beckley, West Virginia where she used her nursing gifts at the Southern West Virginia Regional Health Council serving the rural poor. I had occasion to visit Carol once in Beckley and I was awed by the vast natural beauty of the area, a contrast with the poverty so many experienced.

Carol's time in West Virginia was cut short by her election as Provincial Councilor of the Northern Province of the Sisters of Charity, a position she held for 6 years. Carol was then elected Provincial Superior, a pastoral and administrative role focused on the sisters and ministries of the Province. In this capacity, Carol served on various boards of trustees, including that of the Hospital of St. Raphael and Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, NY. During her 12 years of service Carol encouraged sisters to seek out those in need, to explore new ways of service and to chase their dreams. During these years Carol also continued to hone her nursing skills working every Wednesday at the Strang Clinic, a cancer screening clinic in New York City, where she served as a clinical specialist and consultant.

The next step on Carol's journey brought her to North Carolina. In 1986 Carol and Sr. Irene Mongrandi, another nurse, joined 2 Sisters of Mercy in Rosman, NC in opening the Frances Warde Health Clinic to serve the mostly mountain people of Transylvania County, in western North Carolina. Soon thereafter Carol recognized that she could do even more for her patients and attended the University of North Carolina, becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner. Carol and Irene rented a small house up the mountain in nearby Lake Toxaway on Bubba's Lane where Carol lived for more than 38 years, most recently with Sr. Sharon. A simple example of how the Frances Warde Clinic responded to the needs of their patients: the Clinic always had a basket of protein bars and fruit available for patients who came in hungry, and Carol often baked muffins to put out for the taking.

Finally, a story with a simple beginning and long-lasting consequences – shortly after moving to North Carolina Carol contacted me who was living in Little Rock, Arkansas. She suggested we meet somewhere half-way for a long weekend. We ended up meeting in Nashville, TN over the Fourth of July weekend of 1986 at a lovely house belonging to Dominican priests who were away at the time. It was so good just to hang out together we decided to do it again and invite the other sisters living and working at a distance. Thus began the infamous Southern Gathering which met over almost 20 years in Pensacola, FL; Carthage, MS; St. Petersburg, FL; Rome, GA; Houston; Richmond; and several times in North Carolina, among other places, always where



one of us was ministering. It was a wonderful experience as we got to know the locale where each of us lived and the people we worked with in addition to sharing our own lives. And it was all Carol's idea.

This past fall, Carol marked 65 years as a Sister of Charity. In anticipation of the celebration of our sisters' jubilees, all the jubilarians were asked for a simple statement about their experience as a Sister of Charity. Carol's response was "Every phase of my life has sent new and expanded challenges, joys, relationships, heartaches, insights, experiences, learnings, questions, growth . . . and more. For all I am thankful."

May Carol rest in peace. Her good works go with her.

Sister Rosemary Smith, SC