



Sharing of Memories of Barbara Jean (Jean Vincent) Tascher, BVM

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Barbara Gaul, BVM

I got to know Barbara when I moved to southern California in the 1970s. She lived close by, visited many times, and enjoyed playing Scrabble. We belonged to the same cluster. I so appreciate that during times I would be out-of-town, Barbara would visit my mother, who was living alone at the time, fix her supper, and spend the evening with her. It was always good to have a chat with her when I visited at Mount Carmel. Rest in peace, Barbara.

Theresa McNerney, BVM

I've been a friend of Barbara's for over 40 years. She has struggled with health issues for all that time. She was always a friendly person to everyone and never spoke unkindly about anyone. May she rest in peace.

Bette Gambonini, BVM

What I remember of Barbara Jean was her lovely smile. Even though she suffered from numerous health issues whenever we met, her smile would come through. She was very faithful about remembering my birthday. Each January I would get a lovely email card with good wishes. Barbara Jean would also share stories of the many times she would go and stay with her mom when her siblings needed a break. Even though she herself was not in the best of health, she would travel to be with her mom who still lived in her own home. Barbara Jean was also very grateful for Theresa and Barbara's faithful friendship. They would take her to meetings, cluster gatherings, share meals with her, and keep in contact with her even though distance separated them. I am grateful for the opportunity to have known Barbara Jean during her time in Southern California and in Dubuque. May her suffering be turned into dancing and joy.

Carol Ann Klenke, sister

The Tascher family says goodbye to a member of our family with lots of love. We don't dwell on our loss, but remember her remarkable life. Our family was Daddy, Mom, and six children—Vincent, Paul, Barb, and then the three youngest, Ed, Carol, and Mary.

Barbara was Mom's helper with the three youngest in a big way. She helped get us off to school with dressing and making sure we had our homework. I remember her teaching me how to tie my shoes with a great deal of patience. When we went to the park, she was our older sister keeping a watchful eye out for us in the water and playground, sometimes sacrificing her own good times with her friends.

Christmas Eve was a big adventure in our home. Barbara would make sure we were dressed up for Christmas Eve Mass. She also made sure we did not open the French doors where Santa had dropped off all the presents and put up the tree.

The three girls (Barb, Carol, and Mary) shared one bedroom. I remember her singing "God Bless America" almost every night with her head rocking back and forth. It is a wonderful memory of mine.

She went off to school to Our Lady of Angels in Clinton, Iowa. I missed her very much. After high school, she joined the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We were so proud of her as a family. My mother told everyone she met that Barb was studying to be a nun with a big smile.

We enjoyed doing genealogy together. I started genealogy back in 2001 and Barb started in 2012. She ended up with a family history twice the size of mine. She was very intuitive and did a large amount of research. Bless her heart!

Barb was always smiling because she had a positive outlook on life, even when she had breast cancer twice. We will miss her dearly and her memory will live on in our hearts forever!

Mary Louise Tascher, Sisters of Charity

My sister was probably one of the most caring people you could ever meet. I was very young when she entered the convent and she was the very best babysitter you could have. I remember when we took her to the Motherhouse that I was very sad because I not only felt I was losing my sister but my babysitter too. She would do such funny and imaginative things like making up a menu, which she would have to read to me, for lunch and pretending that we were the customers in the lunch restaurant and she was the waitress and the cook. When she moved to Southern California, we were able to renew our closeness. There were so many times when she would come and stay with me and we would have such good times and so many laughs, which I still think about today. It was something we could and would always share and talk about often. Sometimes I would go stay with her even when she was at the convent in Burbank, Calif. We always had a good time and many, many laughs, which I have always carried in my memories. These are the times I will remember the most and will always cherish. Barbara loved and was so loved, not only by me but by our whole family. I feel like I am back to when we first took Barb to the Motherhouse and I have lost her again. But I will not lose those wonderful memories that we shared. Those are forever.

Mary Jean Ferry, BVM

I remember Barbara Jean as being a happy member of the Set of 1952. In Southern California, she went to a hospital for her mental health. She wanted to work as a psychiatric technician after being in the hospital. She was licensed to be an aide. She worked several years in a hospital run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, Calif. She enjoyed living in a home for retired seniors. Her happy personality made it easy for her to make friends there. Barbara Jean loved animals. She cared for her canary with loving attention. She named her canary Perry after her favorite singer, Perry Como. She looked forward to visiting with Bronx when Mary Ann Fremgen brought Bronx to visit her. Barbara enjoyed a happy cruise with her family. Barbara dealt with many health issues with extraordinary courage and patience.

Mary Ann Fremgen, Mount Carmel volunteer

I had never met Barbara Jean before I started bringing my dog Bronx to visit at Mount Carmel in January of 2019. Barbara became an every week sister to visit until the shut down in March. She was always happy to see and hold Bronx on her lap. She talked to Bronx in a very excited voice, asking him how he was and what he had been doing. Sometimes she talked to him about how he looked; she noticed when he had a new collar. Barbara was a true dog person and Bronx loved her too. She was one of the few people with whom Bronx would lay down on her lap. I'd tell her he was ready to stay with her. She'd say "Okay, but how will I walk him?" Barbara is on the YouTube video "Love is a Four-legged Word," where you can see and hear her excitement. Bronx and I have missed being able to visit the sisters. When we do return, Barbara will be missed by both of us. Hopefully she's with all the dogs she loved in her life, talking to them, and they are loving her as much as Bronx did.

Ann Cronin, BVM

I lived with Barbara Jean in Burbank, Calif., in the late 1970s. At one point, my mother living in San Francisco fell and broke her femur. Because my mom's house had many stairs, it was suggested that we have her come to our house in Burbank to recuperate. One night, the parish was having a dinner. Barbara and I decided to take my mom over in her wheelchair. On the way home we came to a crosswalk where there were no ramps. We decided that on the count of three, we would lift the chair onto the sidewalk. On the count of three, neither of us moved. We started laughing and my poor mom was terrified. Needless to say, we were successful in our second attempt.

We blamed the wine we had with dinner. One of the last times I saw Barbara Jean, she recalled that story. She was a kind person without a mean bone in her body.

Gwen Farry, BVM

I knew Barbara Jean as an interested member of the West Region each time Mary Kay Dum and I visited Southern California. However, my favorite memories of Barbara Jean were just before the Portland Senate in 2001. She drove as far as Seaside, Ore., with Theresa McNerney and Barbara Gaul, and then Theresa and Barb continued on to the Seattle area to visit Theresa's family. Barbara Jean and I had several days to enjoy the beauties of the Oregon coast before driving through the coastal range to participate in the Senate.

Anne Kendall, BVM

In the 1980s, Barbara Jean Tascher was changing ministries. This change required that she get further schooling. I remember going with her to many, many places looking for an apartment in which she could live that would not be too far from where her classes were given. Finally, we found one very small place which was only a living room, bathroom, and kitchen. Barbara Jean finished her education and became a licensed psychiatric technician serving the poor hospitalized patients.

Diane Forster, BVM

While my good friend Sister Marilyn Thomas was a resident at Marian Hall, her room was directly across from Barbara Jean's. I often had short conversations with Barbara Jean, who immediately touched me with her smile, her eyes, and her gentleness. She would ask about Marilyn or tell me some conversation they had had, always initiated by Barbara Jean.

To my surprise, Barbara Jean explained that she and I had an earlier connection. She entered from the parish in Fox Lake, a neighboring parish to mine in Antioch. And, she had spent some time at Lilac Lodge, which I understood was a now-long-ago BVM vacation house on Fox Lake. I don't know whether Barbara was there as a teenage summer employee or was there as a sister, or perhaps both. I remembered Lilac Lodge, having been there one evening as a 7- or 8-year-old while my Dad did some repair work, so I may have met Barbara Jean. I was there again as a Scholastic for a morning breakfast with the sisters and a woman from my parish. I wish I had taken more time to visit with Barbara Jean about her growing up years in Fox Lake and about Lilac Lodge.