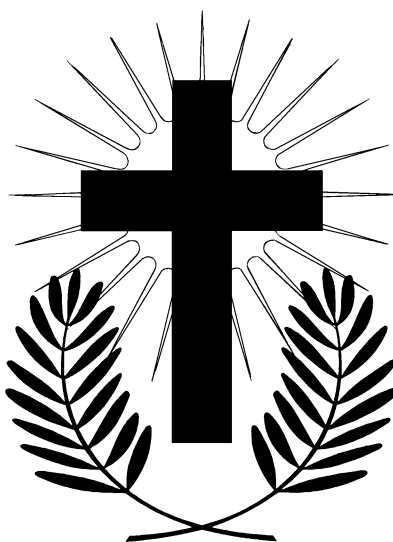


*SISTER BRIGID*

*OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART*

*COSTELLOE*



*BORN TO EARTHLY LIFE:*

*OCTOBER 18, 1927*

*BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE:*

*DECEMBER 11, 2012*

**Sister Brigid Costelloe**  
**Province of U.S.A. & Canada**  
**1927-2012**

At the age of 85, Sister Brigid went home peacefully to God on December 11, 2012. She was blessed with a strong faith from childhood and was welcomed as the fourth child into a loving family in Cork, Ireland, and named Emily after her mother. During her growing years she succumbed to the usual childhood diseases, as well as rheumatic fever that left lifelong effects. During her schooling, she specialized in domestic science and was quite proficient in culinary arts and needlework.

Having five aunts religious sisters and an uncle a priest, had, no doubt, some influence on Emily's decision to consider religious life. She came to the Irish novitiate on September 8, 1947, and received the name: Sister Brigid of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. With her group of novices she made profession on March 23, 1950, the Holy Year.

Initially she had brief assignments. Before coming to the USA, Sister Brigid was assigned to Stafford, England for a year and then missioned to Philadelphia, USA for a year of study. In July 1951, she, with other sisters, arrived in Los Angeles to staff the Ss. Peter and Paul School, Wilmington, California. The teaching ministry in Wilmington, in St. Catherine Laboure, (Torrance, CA) and Cluny School, (Newport, RI), helped complete the thirty years Sister Brigid spent in elementary education. During this time thousands of children passed through her classrooms, the majority making First Confession and First Communion under her vigilant guidance. She was an excellent teacher having had a model in her father whose lifelong profession it had been. She saw the broader horizons of the Church and the obscure and hidden suffering of people. Her sensitive and caring heart reached out to those in need and in quiet and simple ways she tried to alleviate their pain.

Sister Brigid lived much of her life in St. Catherine Laboure Parish, Torrance. In the early eighties, feeling a call to work in adult ministry, she participated in a sabbatical program in Sangre de Cristo, New Mexico; then completed training in spiritual direction at Mercy Center, Burlingame, California. Finally she did an internship at The Center for Spirituality, Orange, California, where she later ministered full time on the team of presenters and directors. She conducted programs with serenity and had a keen sense of the essence of the spiritual life. She herself demonstrated the silence and listening that she recommended to others. She exercised good judgment and wisdom, and was held in high esteem by those who knew and worked with her. Her involvement in each of these ministries was challenged by chronic poor health and in spite of this she gave her genuine attention to the concerns of those around her.

Unfortunately, 1997 brought a number of health problems, which forced Sister Brigid to let go of her high-powered ministry that was so life-giving. Brain surgery was found necessary, and this changed the course of her subsequent life. She went to Ireland for a year and came back to semi-retirement in Torrance until 2006 when incapacity forced her into full retirement. The Little Sisters of the Poor were able to offer the care she needed in their Jeanne Jugan Residence, San Pedro, California. For over six years we watched her struggle with physical and mental diminishment despite the best of palliative care. Though confined in her room, she was blessed daily with a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean and with many breath-taking sunsets. One can only imagine where such beauty led her. In time, her awareness gradually diminished and in December we knew the end was approaching. In the early minutes of December 11, 2012, she slipped away quietly after her long and arduous struggle. Her nephew and family in San Diego had come to visit on occasion, and were able to return for the funeral.

All the services were held at Jeanne Jugan Residence on Monday, December 17. In place of a eulogy, each of the three decades of the Rosary were preceded by a reflection on the mystery as seen in Sister Brigid's life. In the presence of a crowded chapel, a Mass of Resurrection

was celebrated at 10:30 am. The homily and music were well prepared, and we commended Sister Brigid to God. After a lunch at the residence, we moved to All Souls Cemetery, Long Beach, California and laid Sister Brigid to rest in God's peace. She had sown the seed of the Word of God in many hearts. She will be fondly remembered by all of us who loved her and enjoyed the benefits of her example and prayers.