



Sr. Mary Elizabeth Dennison rc

April 24, 1928 - November 27, 2020

Sister Mary E. Dennison, a Cenacle Sister for 69 years, died peacefully on November 27, 2020 in Houston; she was 92 years of age. Born in Alton, Illinois, Sr. Mary was the daughter of John and Emilia (nee Gschwend) Dennison. She is pre-deceased by parents and her elder brother, John Thomas. She is survived by her beloved sister Patricia de Kay, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Sr Mary served the Cenacle in communities in Sacramento, St Louis, Warrenville, IL and Chicago. Once she arrived at the Cenacle in Rosharon, Texas in 1965, she remained in the Houston area ever since. In addition to her ministry at the Cenacle over the years, Sr Mary also served in the Diocesan Religious Education Office, as the Director of Religious Education at St. John Vianney Parish, and worked with the Master of Religious Education program at the University of St. Thomas for 24 years (part of that time as its Director). She was also the founder and director of the Cenacle Spiritual Direction Institute, a training program for persons interested in becoming spiritual directors. She served as director of SDI for 24 years.

Many people have said that when they walked into the foyer at the Cenacle, it was Sr Mary's warm smile and graciousness that welcomed them. She is remembered for her listening heart, her inner strength, her loving support, deep wisdom, prayer, and her great kindness.

A private Funeral Mass will be celebrated Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 1:30 p.m., Fr. John Rooney presiding, accompanied by Fr. Troy Gately, pastor.

Live streaming of the Mass will be provided by Dettling Funeral Home and can be viewed at that link for the following two weeks.

Sr. Mary will be interred with the Cenacle Sisters at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, Illinois at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, for those who wish, donations in Sr. Mary's honor may be made to the Cenacle Sisters, 6505 Almeda Rd., Houston, TX 77021.

The live streaming link for Holy Mass on Wednesday 12-9-2020: <https://youtu.be/Pr2eaEIF38Q>

Cemetery Details

Queen of Heaven Cemetery

Hillside, IL

Previous Events

Private Funeral Mass

DEC 9. 1:30 PM (CT)

Live Stream

Tribute Wall



“ *Sr. Mary Elizabeth Dennison rc*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Sr. Mary Elizabeth Dennison rc*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Sr. Mary Elizabeth Dennison rc*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Sr. Mary Elizabeth Dennison rc*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *I didn't really know Sister Mary, but I was friends with Sr. Emily Katz, whom I met at a bridal luncheon about 45 yrs ago. I didn't really know Sr Mary, but I felt she was very special because she always had a pet cat or dog, living with her at the Cenacle. The last times I saw Sr Mary was before "harvey" decimated the wonderful Cenacle: I saw Mary walking her latest little dog along Kirkwood. Bless you Mary, for continuing to adopt precious pets, and for keeping that special love going in your own life.... Melissa Balivet*

Melissa Balivet - January 07, 2021 at 05:17 AM

CT

“ *Christine Tansey lit a candle in memory of Sr. Mary Elizabeth Dennison rc*



Christine Tansey - December 27, 2020 at 02:17 PM

CT

Sister was a beautiful spirit and great testament of Gods love. She helped me to rediscover Jesus. I will miss her dearly.

Christine Tansey - December 27, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ *Sr. Mary invited me to the Cenacle for her Aging Gracefully retreats and I never stopped attending programs there for over 10 years. Will always be grateful to her for tender, loving guidance. Hattie McKinley*

Hattie McKinley - December 15, 2020 at 02:57 PM

RB

“ *I lost my mother in 2015. She loved Sr. Dennison. I'm happy the two friends are together with God.*

Rose A Bolfing - December 14, 2020 at 06:15 PM

JM

“ I was privileged to be in the Spiritual Direction Institute training with Sister Mary from 1993-1996. As a beginning student of that 3-year program, I asked her if she would be my Spiritual Director. It is one of the great blessings of my life that she said yes -- and for 27 years, I have been privileged to be her student and her director.

One of the main qualities of her numerous fine qualities was her utter faithfulness. She was so faithful to God and to her calling, to her beloved sister and nephews and nieces, to her students...and to life. That steady, calm, unflappable humility was constant, and the peace and love she exuded were life lessons. By her great knowledge and deep wisdom, she taught much, and her life was her most powerful lesson.

I was privileged to love her and listen to her, and for that I will be eternally grateful.

I know how much her sister and her family meant to Sister Mary -- May God comfort you and bless you with what must be countless memories. My memories include her wonderful humor, and I am sure that you have so many moments of laughter with that incredible Sister Mary.

I pray that my tears now will water the countless precious seeds she planted in my mind and heart, and may they grow into grace and mercy for others. That is what she showed me in her life -- grace and mercy.

Jeanie Miley
Houston, Texas

Jeanie Miley - December 09, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ 45 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Detting Funeral Home - December 08, 2020 at 05:19 PM

BY

“ *I got to know Sr. Mary at the Cenacle in Houston and she was a special favorite as she was I believe of many people. She was a great retreat leader. My condolences to the Cenacle Sisters in loosing this rare individual. After my brother died, Sr. Mary told me you can pray to people who have died. I am going to pray to Sr. Mary to help us individually and as a country during this difficult time.*

Barbara Yoder - December 08, 2020 at 03:15 PM