



Ms. Elizabeth Nelson

December 5, 1935 - January 18, 2021

Elizabeth “Betty” Frances Nelson, 85, a gifted teacher, died of cancer January 18, at Penn Hospice at Rittenhouse in Philadelphia.

Betty spent her early youth in Drexel Hill where she attended Holy Child Academy. Her 6th

and 7th grade teacher there was Sister Gloria Coleman. “When I came to the school I was 21 and it was my first teaching assignment,” Sister Gloria said.

Nun and student bonded and became lifelong friends. “Betty always said I inspired her to become a teacher.”

After her father, George Nelson, an advertising executive, transferred to New Orleans, Betty attended Holy Name of Jesus School there from 8th grade through

high school. She earned a bachelor’s degree from University of Detroit Mercy and

a master’s degree in education from University of Pennsylvania.

For two years she taught in Michigan before becoming a reading teacher in 1962,

at newly opened, E.T. Richardson Middle School in Springfield, Pa. “She had all the

attributes of a good teacher,” Sister Gloria said, “She was concerned with the whole child, not just the intellect, and made it a point to know each child’s

background.” Many of Betty’s students kept in touch.

She retired in 1991 to care for her widowed mother, Kathryn, who died in 1993.

Betty was devoted to her Catholic faith and attended daily Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church the Oratory in Fairmount. For 30 years she volunteered in the Oratory’s office until becoming ill last year.

She was a loving “Aunt Bee” to nephews Sean and Joseph Nelson and their families.

Betty attended concerts and dined out with friends in Philadelphia and cherished

vacations in Ocean City, N.J. with her nephews and their children. She enjoyed taking family and friends to her favorite seafood restaurants and to boardwalk shops.

In addition to her nephews, she is survived by great-nieces , Jillian and Alexa, and

great nephews, Collin and Zach. She is predeceased by brother, John.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 22 at St. Francis Xavier Church the Oratory, 2319 Green Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19130. Friends may call at the church from 9:30 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Yeadon. Donations may be made to the Oratory at address above. Arr. Dinan Funeral Home, Phila., PA. Condolences may also be sent to www.dinanfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross

626 Bailey Road
Yeadon, PA

Previous Events

Visitation and Service at Church

JAN 22. 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM (ET)

St. Francis Xavier Church The Oratory
24th and Green Sts.
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Elizabeth Nelson*

February 03, 2023 at 04:11 AM



“ *Our condolences to the family. Although we didn't know her well, we often saw her at Mass when in Fairmount. God Bless her !*

Brian & Caroline Connelly - January 20, 2021 at 08:39 AM



A kind and caring person.

Claire McDowell - January 20, 2021 at 10:33 AM