



SISTER YVONNE HAWKER 1949 – 2017

Sister Yvonne Hawker, the daughter of Eldon and Patricia (Dolan) Hawker, was born on August 15, 1949, in Evergreen Park, Illinois. She was baptized at St. Helena's Catholic Church on September 11, 1949. Yvonne was the youngest of four children - two brothers, James and Thomas, and one sister, Susan. She attended Jane Neil Elementary School in Chicago and St. Jude the Apostle School in South Holland, Illinois. She graduated from St. Elizabeth Seton High School in South Holland in 1967.

Yvonne entered the Sisters of St. Francis on August 25, 1967, and returned to secular life at the end of her novitiate in July, 1969. When the call to religious life persisted, she re-entered the congregation in August, 1972. She pronounced temporary vows in 1973 and perpetual vows in 1982.

Sister Yvonne earned two bachelor's degrees, one with a double major in Theology and Education from St. Xavier College, Chicago in 1972, and the second in Business Administration from Mt. St. Clare College in 1991. She had a Master of Religious Education degree from Seattle University. She was certified as a K-9 teacher and held a certificate to teach RCIA from the North American Forum Catechumenate.

Sister Yvonne ministered as an elementary teacher in both El Cajon and Riverside, California, as well as at St. Justin the Martyr School in St. Louis. She worked in the registrar's office at Mount St. Clare College from 1989-1991. In California, she served as the Director of Religious Education at St. Anthony Parish in Manteca, St. Kieran Parish in El Cajon, and at St. Margaret Catholic Community in Oceanside. Sister Yvonne also worked as an administrative assistant for several years, including her last six years of active ministry at the North County Health Services in San Marco, California. She retired in 2011.

As a young child, Sister Yvonne was afflicted with polio and dealt with its effects throughout her life. In spite of this, and perhaps because of it, she was determined to fully participate in life. She was dedicated to her work and to the people with whom she ministered. She never passed up the opportunity to experience something new, be it traveling, or camping, or skydiving.

Sister Yvonne died at the age of 67 on Sunday, February 26, 2017, at Palomar Medical Center in Escondido, CA. She is survived by her brother James (Sheila) of Glenwood, IL, her sister Susan Davies of Des Plaines, IL, and her Clinton Franciscan Sisters, Sojourners, and Associates.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Thomas.