

Sister Mary Ellen Donohue SUSC

(Sister Catherine Michael)

May 15, 1933 – April 7, 2024



Sister Mary Ellen Donohue (Sister Catherine Michael) SUSC died at the Fall River Jewish Home on April 7 at the age of ninety. Born in New York City on May 15, 1933, she was the daughter of the late Michael and Catherine (Corey) Donohue. In addition to her Holy Union Sisters, she is survived by her brother John, sister and brother-in-law Theresa and Patrick Galvin, sister-in-law Mary Donohue, nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews. She was predeceased by her brothers Michael, Frank, and Father James Donohue CSC.

After graduating from the Holy Union Preparatory School in Tiverton RI, Sister Mary Ellen joined the Holy Union Sisters on February 2, 1951, and pronounced her final vows on August 22, 1959. She received a B.A. Ed. at the College of the Sacred Hearts. She took courses in administration at Fordham University and received an M.A. in Administration at Bridgewater State University.

Early in her religious life, Sr. Mary Ellen taught junior high classes in parish schools staffed by the Holy Union Sisters in Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. She also served as principal at schools in New York and New Jersey.

After she left formal teaching, Sr. Mary Ellen ministries took her to very different settings. She worked with teenage youth as residential director of Boys Hope in Staten Island, a Jesuit-sponsored program for boys in need of academic and personal support. Later she was part of the administrative and teaching staff at the San Miguel School in Providence, a Lasallian middle school, which provides education for boys from diverse and challenging backgrounds.

Sr. Mary Ellen also ministered to persons in their later years, first as a member of the pastoral team for the Holy Union Sisters Retirement Community in Fall River and later as a pastoral minister at Catholic Memorial Home in Fall River.

When the Lay Associate Movement with congregations of women religious was in its initial stages, Sr. Mary Ellen was one of the Holy Union Sisters who worked | to incorporate Associates into the Holy Union Family. Through her own education and presentations to the sisters at their assemblies, Sr. Mary Ellen was instrumental in the province affirmation of Holy Union Associates Program. For many years, she was active with the Fall River area Associates.

In 2014 Sr. Mary Ellen joined the Holy Union Sisters residing at Prosper Fall River. When she needed further care, she initially went to Catholic Memorial Home and later to the Fall River Jewish Home. In 2021 Sr. Mary Ellen celebrated seventy years as a Holy Union Sister.

Visitation will take place at Holy Name Church 709 Hanover Street, Fall River at 9 a.m. followed by the Memorial Prayer and Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Burial at St. Patrick Cemetery, 2233 Robeson Street, Fall River will take place after the Mass. Donations in Sister Mary Ellen's memory may be made to the Holy Union Sisters Mission Advancement Office 205 Bedford Street, Fall River MA 02720.

*Since Easter was early this year, the Holy Union Congregational
Feast of the Annunciation was observed on April 8th.
In her peaceful death on the eve of this feast,
Mary Ellen joined the other faithful Mary whose
"Yes" enabled them both to share in resurrected glory.*