



Sister Judy Murphy CSJ
March 30, 1940 – December 19, 2019

Judith Ann Murphy was born in THE CITY, San Francisco, on March 30, 1940, the first child of William Paul Murphy, a native San Franciscan, and Mary Denk Murphy, from Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The family settled in the outer Richmond district, St. Thomas Parish, just a few blocks from the ocean. With the birth of James Peter, four years later, the Murphy family was complete. Judy was close to "Pee Wee", as James was known; and when they were younger, she delighted in teasing him, assuring him that he was adopted.

Judy met the CSJs when St. Thomas School opened in 1948, and she became a charter member of the 3rd grade. She continued her education with the CSJs attending Star of the Sea Academy, where she was an excellent student, fond of Science, mystified with the study of molecules. Badminton was her favorite sport and, being a talented dancer of the Charleston,

Remembering

she often entertained the patients at Notre Dame Hospital at the request of her cousin, Mercy Sister Mary Bertrand.

Upon graduation from high school Judy received an academic scholarship to the College of the Holy Names, but responding to God's call, she entered the CSJs at the House of Studies in Los Angeles on September 15, 1958. On March 20, 1959 she received the habit and the name Sister William Mary in honor of her parents.

Graduating from Mount St. Mary's College in 1965 with a major in nursing, Sister Judy spent a year and a half in a staff nursing internship in all areas of nursing at Daniel Freeman Hospital in Inglewood.

For four years Sr. Judy served at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lewiston, Idaho, returning to San Francisco to earn a Masters of Science at UCSF, and going back to Lewiston to the position of Associate Director of Nursing. She spoke often of

those wonderful days and of the inspirational example and dedication of Sister Helen Frances, the Administrator of St. Joseph's.

As the Community broadened their scope of service during the 1980's, Sister Judy earned her Juris Doctorate at the University of Idaho and was admitted to practice in California, Idaho and Federal District Court.

Upon graduation, she was elected to give the closing remarks to the members of her class:

"...It seems fitting to me, that the words of Chief Joseph, a famous leader of the Nez Perce tribe, would be appropriate as closing remarks and as a challenge to us who go forth to pursue a career in law—a career that uses the word, written and spoken, as its primary tool. Chief Joseph pleaded: 'Treat all people alike. Give them the same law. Give them all an even chance to live and grow. All people were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers and sisters. The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights on it.'

Unfortunately we are still waiting and praying for the time when all people may be one people. So I pose the challenge: Will I use the tool of words, written or spoken, as a power in a broken world to mend, to heal, to promote responsible freedom and enable people to become one people? Or will I use the word as a weapon to cause despair, hatred, captivity and negative power? For those of us who accept this challenge, may peace be in our hearts—for this we ask God's blessing! Shalom!"

After service as a member of the CSJ Strategic Planning Team, Judy continued her legal career as General Counsel for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles from 1986 until 2003.

She blended her ministries of healthcare, service to the poor and the law by serving on the Boards of QueensCare, St. Joseph Health Support Alliance, QueensCare Family Clinics, QueensCare Charitable Board and Carondelet Health Network. During the last year as Sr. Judy faced more of her own health challenges, she resigned from her Board responsibilities.

In early 2019 Sister Judy moved from the Villa to Holy Family Community where she could receive the care and support of the nursing staff. In November she spent four weeks at Providence St John's Medical Center and it was during that time she learned that she had acute leukemia. Judy chose to come home to Carondelet Center and enjoy the time she had left.

Judy died peacefully the morning of December 19. May she rest now in God's peace. ❖

~ Sister Maureen O'Connor, CSJ

