

SISTER BARBARA UNGACTA: GOLDEN JUBILARIAN

Motto: Love and Patience

Sister Barbara, RSM was born on Nov. 26, 1946, to Silvino Ignacio and Rosario Gogo Castro Ungacta. Sister Barbara came from a family of eight; four brothers and three sisters. As a child she grew up, in a strong family environment with faith in God and in the Church. This practice became a tradition for Sister Barbara then and continues to this day.

Sister Barbara graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in June 1965. After graduating, she held a clerical position in the radiology department at Guam Memorial Hospital. It was there that Sister Barbara developed a strong desire to pursue a career in the health care profession. Two years later Sister Barbara was awarded a scholarship from the government to pursue her dream. She was sent to Detroit, Michigan where Sister Barbara attended a School of Radiologic Technology at Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital for two and a half years. After training, Sister Barbara returned to Guam and continued to work at Guam Memorial Hospital as a Radiologic Technologist.

Fulfilling her desire to enter a religious community, Sister Barbara entered the Religious Sisters of Mercy on December 8, 1971, under the direction of Sister Mary Mark Martinez. In her Incorporation process Sister Barbara learned more about Mother Catherine McAuley, the Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, and her charism and Mercy way of life. Sister Barbara continued her formation studying the Constitutions of the Sisters of Mercy and history of the Catholic Church. On August 15, 1972, Sister Barbara was received as a Novice taking her religious name, "Sister Barbara". Sister made her Final Profession of Vows on June, 1977 at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral.

Two years later Sister was offered another scholarship from the government to pursue studies in the School of Nuclear Medicine in Providence, Rhode Island Hospital for a year and a half. During her years at Guam Memorial Hospital, Sister Barbara headed the Radiology and Nuclear Medicine Department as well as CAT scanner. All together Sister Barbara had worked serving the people of Guam for 30 years and then retired in 1995.

With a strong desire to transition from a very active life to a rhythm of contemplation and action, Sister Barbara needed to take time for peace, prayer and refreshment of mind, body and Spirit. In order to help transition from one active

and busy life to the contemplative rhythms in prayer, she spent a year for her sabbatical after which Sister Barbara returned to Guam and was assigned as the Administrator of Infant of Prague Pre-School and Day Care Nursery on August, 1997 to July 31, 2018.

Her second “retirement” called for another time to rest, reflect and discern her next ministry, Sister Barbara felt she needed the space and quiet time to be in touch with her inner-self and to be one in solitude with her God. Hoping to focus on her inner and spiritual healing and nourishment she spent her time for renewal and rejuvenation of mind, body and spirit, deepening her spiritual journey in simplicity and love of earth contributing for the transformation of human consciousness. With the constant stressful environment of everyday active life, Sister Barbara continues to pray for the grace of God for her to continue to serve God in her life as a religious sister in her Mercy community.

Sister Barbara was assigned to minister at Mercy Care Center for the elderly and the infirmed sisters on July 2020. She and other caregivers engage the sisters in activities including prayer, exercise via music, art, and games that involve multi-sensory skills and stimulatón. As a Sister of Mercy, Sister Barbara continues to live her charism of Mercy in contemplation and action.

Article provided by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Guam.