

SR. CATHERINE BARCIA, C.S.JB.

June 1, 1922 – September 30, 2005

Sr. Catherine Barcia was born in New York City to Fortunato Barcia and Grazia Fugarino.

Sister grew up in Our Lady of Loreto parish and attended the parish school. It was here that her vocation became clearer as she witnessed the dedication of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist. On February 1, 1942, Sister entered the Congregation of Sisters of St. John the Baptist and made her first profession of vows on August 30, 1943. Sister was assigned to St. John Villa Academy, Staten Island, and immediately began her pursuit of a degree in elementary school education at Fordham University. In September 1944, Sister was transferred to teach at St. James parish on Manhattan's lower East side.

Upon completion of her University studies in 1947, Sr. Catherine responded to the Community's need for missionary Sisters in Chile, South America. On October 10, 1947, Sister left her beloved America, and for the next 57 years dedicated her life's energy to God's poor in Chile, where she lived through periods of socialism and military rule; in poor regions of northern and southern Chile, as well as the more affluent capital.

For Sr. Catherine, the mission has always been most rewarding and fulfilling. It was there that she grew in her deep trust in divine providence and heartfelt love for her Chilean poor and encountered young people who "really want to dedicate themselves to the Church." Sister worked tirelessly to help correct the needs of the poor by procuring food and clothing for them; by educating them in Christian values; by working to improve their academic education; by seeking decent housing for them. She was truly a spiritual mother to each of them...in her own unassuming, humble, unselfish and extremely kind way.

Sr. Catherine suffered a stroke, which resulted in a decline in her health. On August 27, 2004, Sister departed from her beloved Chile and returned to the United States, where she retired to Mt. St. John Convent in Purchase, New York.

On September 30, 2005, after 63 years of loving dedication to God and the Congregation, God called Sister home to eternity, where she now rests in His eternal love and peace from all her fruitful labors.

"Come, blessed of my Father, and receive the crown prepared for you from all eternity."