

Karen Shirilla  
Obituary

Marie Theresa (Sr. Karen) Shirilla was born September 14, 1932 the oldest of three daughters born to Andrew and Victoria (Kasperowicz) of Detroit, Michigan. After completing elementary school at Our Lady Help of Christians she attended the Felician Academy and St. Ladislaus High School, Hamtramck, Michigan.

Sr. Karen entered the Congregation of the Felician Sisters in 1950. There she received her education and engaged in the ministry of teaching. She earned degrees from Madonna College, the University of Detroit in Mathematics Education and a PhD from the University of Toledo, Ohio in Higher Education Administration. She taught mathematics from 1952 to 1974 in Junior and Senior High Schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit and in Manistee Michigan as well as being the director of student teachers at Madonna College.

Sr. Karen transferred to the Servants of Jesus, a newly formed religious community in the Archdiocese of Detroit in 1974. Her 43 years of ministry as a Servant of Jesus were spent in higher education in a variety of roles: as curriculum coordinator for the Catholic schools of the diocese of Saginaw, director of field education and associate dean at St. John Provincial Seminary, Plymouth, Michigan, assistant dean in the College of Education at the University of Detroit and academic dean at Ss Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan.

After retirement Sr. Karen engaged in many volunteer ministries that served the poor among them being: The Catholic Worker Soup Kitchen, Groundwork for a Just World, and the Siena Literacy Center. She served her community for 23 years in various leadership roles.

Sr. Karen died peacefully May 11, 2024 at the IHM Senior Living Community where she was a resident. She is survived by her sisters Dolly Martin and Patricia Chojnacki, several nieces, nephews, cousins and the sisters and associates of the Servants of Jesus Community.

Services will be held Monday, May 20, 2024 at the IHM Motherhouse Chapel, 610 W. Elm Ave, Monroe, Michigan. Welcoming of the body begins at 9 a.m. A Remembering and Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Streaming will be available on line beginning at 10:00 a.m.. Burial will follow at a later time at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to The Servants of Jesus, 821 W. Elm Ave., Monroe, MI 48162.