



Dr. Barbara Ann Berfanger

June 5, 1933 - July 26, 2019

Dr. Barbara Ann Berfanger, 86, of Sanford, Florida, passed away Friday, July 26, 2019 at Central Florida Regional Hospital in Sanford.

She was born June 5, 1933 in Indianapolis, Indiana, a daughter of the late John James and Dorothy K. (Moser) Berfanger.

Dr. Berfanger's life and legacy were about helping restore Catholic Postsecondary Education to its greatness. She was a 1951 graduate of St. John's Academy in Indianapolis and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. Barbara completed her post-graduate work at the University of Maryland in 1972, earning a Doctorate in Education. She worked as the Executive Editor of Media Materials in Baltimore, MD from 1972 - 1988 writing textbooks and educational materials. In 1988, Dr. Berfanger's tenure at St. Mary's Academy and College, in St. Mary's, Kansas, began as head of the English department; later Dean of the College and her last appointment was President of St. Mary's College. Barbara was a brilliant, dedicated and faithful Catholic, who also worked tirelessly to secure Middle States Accreditation for St. Mary's College; Her goal was to send great Catholic teachers out into the world to help "Instaurare Omnia in Christo" or "Restore all things in Christ".

Barbara was a great inspiration both spiritually and professionally to the thousands of families and children who knew her and were beneficiaries of

her untiring work. In 2006, she retired to Lévis, Québec, Canada and in 2015 moved to Sanford, Florida where she was a member of the St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

Those left to cherish Dr. Berfanger's memory include her twin brothers, Jim (wife: Shirley) Berfanger of New Castle, and Joe (wife: Sharon) Berfanger of Mountain Home, Arkansas, and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, John B. and Francis Jerome "Jerry" Berfanger and two sisters, Catherine Marie Hanchett and Mary Jane Bruce.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 am Saturday, August 3, 2019 at St. Anne Catholic Church with Father John Hall officiating. Burial will follow in St. Anne Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 10:00 am until the time of service Saturday at the church.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Sproles Family Funeral Home.

The family requests memorial contributions be offered to St. Anne Catholic Church. You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Dr. Barbara A. Berfanger.

Cemetery Details

St. Anne Catholic Cemetery

271 W. County Road 50 N.
New Castle, IN 47362

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anne Catholic Church
102 N. 19th St.
New Castle, IN

Service

AUG 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anne Catholic Church
102 N. 19th St.
New Castle, IN

Tribute Wall

CH

“ *A very gracious, intelligent lady...my brothers had her as a teacher, and I was employed by her briefly as a librarian. We were always very impressive by her dignity, common sense, and breadth of vision, and we will pray for her.*

C. Huard - August 06, 2019 at 10:48 AM

MM

“ *Thank you for all that you did for Saint Mary's...you are in our daily rosary and prayers...*



Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Murphy - July 31, 2019 at 10:39 PM

PF

“ *Our family remembers her well and the selflessness she gave to our school here in St. Mary's. May she rest in peace. Mr. & Mrs. Donald Palmer and family.*



Palmer Family - July 31, 2019 at 10:02 PM

ST

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. Barbara, will be missed by all who knew her. She was a special lady who lived life to the fullest.
RIP my friend!*

*Suzanne Tuell
Sanford, Florida*

Suzanne Tuell - July 31, 2019 at 06:28 PM

DM

“ *She was a great and brilliant lady, always on the lookout for ways to make life better for those around her. She had a great and genuine love for the Church, for Catholic education, and for the students in her care.*

I strongly sense that most of what she did was done quietly, behind the scenes, with no fanfare.

She revived the dormant practice of producing and displaying a framed plaque of photos of St. Mary's College Honor-students for each semester, (even personally procuring the supplies) which continued until she left us.

She was not afraid to do the 'grubby' work that needed to be done, like cleaning desks and sanding off graffiti, etc., during the summer months. How many college deans do that?

She also spearheaded the restoration of a damaged painting that was of historic value to SMC.

There were doubtless many more "above and beyond the call" of the usual duties of a college dean that she accomplished. My own involvement (at her request) in these projects is the only way I know of her key roles in them.

God bless her. May she rest in peace, and may her heavenly reward be great.

*David Melechinsky
St. Mary's, Kansas*

David Melechinsky - July 31, 2019 at 05:26 PM

DR

“ *Donna Ragan lit a candle in memory of Dr. Barbara Ann Berfanger*



Donna Ragan - July 31, 2019 at 03:42 PM

TF

“ *We are so saddened by the passing of this wonderful woman. She set such a fine example for everyone she came in contact with, truly first class! May Our Lord reward her for her unwavering perseverance. With our deepest sympathy and prayers*

*The Petit Family
St. Marys' Kansas*

The Petit family - July 31, 2019 at 12:23 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Barbara Ann Berfanger.*



July 31, 2019 at 10:49 AM

VR

“ I was a student of Dr. Berfanger at St. Mary's College in the 1990's. She was energetic, kind, witty, and dedicated to her work and the good of her students. I still have the little binder she gave me, which encloses education-related prayers and counsel. We had been corresponding at least once a year for as long as I can remember. She will be very much missed, and she is definitely in my prayers!

My heartfelt condolences to her family...

Veronica Reardon (Virginia)

Veronica Reardon - July 30, 2019 at 12:26 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Barbara Ann Berfanger.*



July 30, 2019 at 08:48 AM