



Rosemary D. Callaghan

January 19, 1941 - December 29, 2017

Rosemary D. Callaghan, age 76, passed away on Friday, December 29, 2017 in Richmond, VA. She had suffered a stroke and brain trauma on Christmas Eve. Her family stayed by her side for days until she took her last breath. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, teacher, neighbor, and friend.

Rosemary was born on January 19, 1941 in Jersey City, NJ, to the late John Patrick and Helen (McLaughlin) Donohue. She was raised in Jersey City where she met and began dating her future husband, Brian, when they were 15 years old. Following high school, she joined the Sisters of Charity in Convent Station, NJ, where she spent 8 years devoting her life to God and teaching elementary and middle school. After reconnecting with Brian before he left for Vietnam, Rosemary left the Order. They were married on April 20, 1968.

Rosemary and Brian had three children—Joseph, Brian, and Erin. After a short period as an Air Force wife, Rosemary moved with Brian to raise their family in Washington Township, NJ; Randolph, NJ; and then Fairfax Station, VA. Rosemary was the best wife and mother anyone could ask for. She devoted herself to her children, teaching them everything from ordinary skills to important life lessons. She believed they should all know how to load a dishwasher, do their laundry, properly make a bed, always do your best, and show kindness and compassion to all. Her love for her husband Brian was deep and unending, filled with mutual devotion, respect, humor, patience, and above all, love. She was devoted to volunteering within her community and church, and counseled many young couples on what to expect in marriage, and how to build a strong and lasting union. After raising her children, Rosemary returned to teaching and for ten years was the 5th grade teacher at St. Charles School in Arlington, VA, where she found every student who walked through her door a joy.

In early 2016, Rosemary was diagnosed with ALS. She never let the disease dampen her spirit. Although she had to give up singing in her neighborhood chorale and volunteering at Prince William Hospital, she continued to direct a play for the neighborhood theatre group (the Regency Players) even after ALS completely stole her voice. Rosemary's

strength was an inspiration to those around her. She was kind and giving—always putting other people first. She was also a devoted grandma who loved talking in silly voices and making gingerbread houses and other crafts with her grandchildren. She made a special and lasting connection with each of them. She was a loyal New York Giants fan and loved to socialize and travel with friends and family. Throughout her life she immersed herself in her community and built deep and lasting friendships that sustained her in good times and bad. From New Jersey to Virginia, she built friendships that she cherished like a second family. She loved to dance, laugh, hug, listen, and sing. She was a shoulder to cry on, a friend to listen to your troubles, and a strong spirit who lifted up everyone she touched. She was an angel among us.

Rosemary was met in Heaven by her parents as well as brothers John and Mark. She will be missed dearly by those she leaves behind including her loving husband Brian Joseph Callaghan of Haymarket, VA; two sons: Joseph Callaghan (Karen) of Lakewood, CO; and Brian Callaghan (Melissa) of Richmond, VA; one daughter: Erin Huffman (David) of San Diego, CA; one sister: Ellen Catalina (Frank) of Somerset, NY; seven grandchildren: Mike, Mo, Jack, Dylan, Ava, Ella and Hunter; two step grandchildren: Minuet and Monet.

The family will receive friends on Monday, January 1, 2018 from 2-4 and 6-8 at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 10:30 AM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 8213 Linton Hall Road
Gainesville, VA. Interment will follow at St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Cemetery in Fairfax Station, Virginia.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to: ALS Association, DC/MD/VA Chapter, 7507 Standish Place, Rockville, MD 20855; So Others Might Eat (SOME), 71 O Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 or Operation Smile, 3641 Faculty Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA 23453 in loving memory of Rosemary D. Callaghan.

Condolences may be sent to: www.piercefh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 1. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Visitation

JAN 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 2. 10:30 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
8213 Linton Hall Rd
Gainesville, VA 20155-2997
(703) 753-6700

Reception

JAN 2. 2:30 PM (ET)

The Regency of Dominion Valley Clubhouse
15351 Championship Drive
Haymarket, VA 20169

Tribute Wall

RS

“ *Brian and Family, We were so sad to hear of Rosemary's passing. A beautiful light has gone out here on earth only to shine brightly in the presence of God. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know her have lost a treasure in our lives. Beautiful memories outlast the pain of grief. We know she is in the presence of God and may she rest in His loving peace. Remember how much she loved you and what a blessing for you to have had such a person to love. Her life s changed, it is not over! Rest in peace my dear friend and pray for me. God bless.*

Love, Ro & Sully



Richard & Ro Sullivan - January 01, 2018 at 02:36 PM

LL

“ *To All of the Callaghan Family,*

We will remember our dear friend, Rosemary for the beautiful person she was, inside and out. She enriched our lives with her indomitable spirit, sense of humor, positive outlook and boundless love -- for her family, her friends, students and those in need. She continues to be an example of true grace and faith to all of us.

Another light has left this world to shine brightly in the heavens.

*With all our love and deepest condolences,
Linda Lacot and her Saint Charles School Family*



Linda Lacot - December 31, 2017 at 07:24 PM

JL

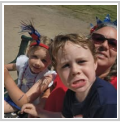
I am just reading the obit of Rosemary - do you know if she taught at Holy Trinity in Westfield, NJ as a Sister of Charity?

Jerry Livesey - January 01, 2018 at 08:16 AM



Jerry-- In case you happen upon this page again, I'm not sure of the name of the school my mom taught at while a Sister of Charity, but I know she taught 5th grade, then followed one class from 5th through 8th grade (if i remember correctly). She used to talk about how she would have 55 kids in a class! -Erin (her daughter)

Erin Huffman - October 15, 2020 at 02:27 AM



Linda-- thank you for sharing this photo! I think this pretty much encapsulates the spirit of her experiences at St. Charles!

Erin Huffman - October 15, 2020 at 02:29 AM