

DOROTHY ANN KELLY, EDUCATOR AND RELIGIOUS LEADER

Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly, provincial superior of the Ursulines of the Eastern Province of the United States and former president of the College of New Rochelle, died at Westchester Medical Center on Friday morning, March 27, 2009.

Her leadership as president of the College of New Rochelle from 1972 to 1997, following five years as academic dean from 1967 to 1972, brought about innovative changes to the college, founded as a liberal arts undergraduate college for women, notably by the creation of the School of New Resources for adult undergraduates, the Graduate School and the School of Nursing for men and women. She brought her leadership skills to the office of Ursuline provincial in 2003 as it adapted religious life to changing demographics, new ministries, and involvement in civic life. She was active in promoting racial justice. She brought a keen sense of humor, a commitment to the local civic community with a willingness to serve for the common good.

In 1997 Sr. Dorothy Ann was appointed Chancellor at the College of New Rochelle. In 2001 she became superior of the Community of St. Teresa in New Rochelle. In 2003, Sr. Dorothy Ann became provincial superior of the Eastern Province Ursulines. Her six-year term of office was to be completed on May 31, 2009.

Over the years, her various memberships were diverse. Among them, she served on the Board of Trustees at Georgetown University, St. Aloysius School in Harlem, and Catholic University of America; Bridges to Peace (formerly Northern Ireland Peace People), the U.S. delegation to the Fourth UN World Conference on Women, and the National Museum for Women in the Arts; commissioner on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges; Board of Directors of the American Council on Education, National Conference of Christians and Jews. She was a member of the Boards of the Interreligious Council of New Rochelle, the Westchester County Association, and Sound Shore Hospital Medical Center.

Her support of Ursuline ministries made her an active board member, from 1990 to 2001, of Angela House that provided a transitional residence for homeless women with children and from 2002, the board of the Adult Learning Center of Ursuline Social Outreach for language and citizenship preparation for new populations of adults.

Born in 1929 in New York to Sarah McCauley Kelly and Walter D. Kelly, she attended St. Simon Stock School in the Bronx. She graduated from the College of New Rochelle with a degree in history in 1951. She earned a master's degree in American Church History at the Catholic University of America in 1958, and a doctorate in American Intellectual History at the University of Notre Dame in 1970.

Sr. Dorothy Ann was predeceased by her sister, Eileen K. Short. She is survived by a brother, Walter Kelly of California, 3 nephews and 2 nieces. Wake will be held at the Castle at the College of New Rochelle on Sunday and Monday, March 30 and 31, at 2 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral Mass of the Resurrection will be offered at Holy Family Chapel at the College of New Rochelle on Tuesday, March 31, at 10:30 a.m. Interment will be at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be given to the Ursuline Development Office, 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804-2121.

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