

BARBARA DOHERTY LILLARD



Barbara Doherty Lillard, age 74, of Alexandria, VA, passed away on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2024, surrounded by her loved ones. Barbara was born August 13, 1950, in Pittsburgh, PA, the first child of Walter and Anne Doherty, the centers of what became a large and loving Irish family. She attended St. Bernard's School, Fontbonne Academy, and the University of Pittsburgh, where she

received undergraduate and graduate degrees in Education. A language arts teaching job at Lynnhaven Junior High took her to Virginia Beach, VA, where she met John, a "cocky" young naval officer. They married on St Patrick's Day, in 1984, and embarked on what would become a 40-year partnership. She took a 10-year hiatus in teaching to raise two fine young sons. After Navy life concluded, Barbara and John settled in Northern Virginia, and she began teaching again, first at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Vienna then at Star of the Sea in Virginia Beach. After retirement, Barbara and John settled in Alexandria.

Teaching and nurturing would define Barbara's life, whether formally in school, or informally in the home. She had an extraordinary ability to connect with her students, and to convince them that what she was teaching would eventually help them wherever life took them. She also taught catechism, tutored, and was active in the Beacon Circle of the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, the Junior League of Northern Virginia, and especially the Gonzaga College High School Mothers Club. Volunteering until the end, she was also a proud docent at the Library of Congress.

Barbara is survived by her husband; sons, James and Sean; daughter-in-law, Alison Bidwick; granddaughter, Gracie; sisters, Christine Fisher (Jim), Denise Simonik (Tom) and Maggie Lynch (David); sister-in-law, Sharon Doherty; a large group of wonderful nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, forever friends, and a loving extended Irish family. She was predeceased by her parents; and her brothers, Michael and Sean.

A memorial service will be held at Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, Alexandria, VA, on January 30, 2025. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to one of Barbara's favorite charities, The Father McKenna Center (www.fathermckennacenter.org), or So Others Might Eat (www.some.org), both in Washington DC.

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