



Anna Barbara Brady Sakurai CoL
August 29, 1930 — June 2, 2011

Anna Barbara Brady was born at Ft. Monroe, Virginia. Growing up an “Army brat”, Anna Barbara moved around a great deal, which is how she came to know Loretto. It was when the Bradys lived in El Paso that Anna Barbara met Loretto, spending three years at Loretto Academy. She finished high school in Falls Church, Virginia.

Anna Barbara entered the Loretto novitiate after one year at St. Mary’s College, Holy Cross, Indiana. She received the habit and the name Sister Mary Anna Barbara on April 25, 1950. Anna Barbara went to St. Louis where she began and continued a teaching career that spanned nearly 60 years.

Anne Spillane remembers teaching in the classroom next to Anna Barbara at Mary Queen of Peace in Webster Groves: “I heard frequent laughter from her classroom as she made learning fun. As you might suspect, discipline was not high on her priority list, but her students loved her and frequently named her as their favorite teacher.” Anna Barbara’s elementary teaching assignments in St. Louis included Immaculate Conception School in Maplewood, Mary Queen of Peace

In 1962 Anna Barbara went to Brussels, where she studied for a year at Lumen Vitae, returning to teach Religious Education in Webster College's new Master of Arts in Teaching Program. Early in the 1970s, Anna Barbara returned to elementary education, teaching at the College School, then a part of Webster. In 1979, she made her final career change, joining Webster's Mathematics and Computer Science Department.

In June 1972, Anna Barbara left the Sisters of Loretto to marry Edward Sakurai, a faculty colleague at Webster. In February 1973 she joined the Loretto Community as a co-member as did Edward. Together Anna Barbara and Edward devoted themselves in diverse loving ways to the Loretto Community and to the Webster University community.

Anna B. and Ed initiated Webster's participation in the service program at Sts. Peter and Paul parish where they served dinner to the needy one night every month. They shopped, cooked, and greeted. She was an influential presence to the Women's Studies Committee at Webster and as such a bridge from Webster University to the Loretto Community. She served as a role model, an organizer, and a friend to countless students, colleagues, and community members.

In Loretto, A.B. was a current member of the Community Forum, an elected leadership group. She was a member of the discernment committee, which was facilitating a study about new ideas for the future of the community.

Anna Barbara Brady Sakurai epitomized the commitment to social justice that characterizes the Loretto Community and the commitment to excellence in education that characterizes both the Webster University community as well as Loretto. In the company of her husband, Ed, these two communities were central to her life. With Ed, we say thank you, Anna Barbara, for your loving, joyous presence with us.

Information from archival information and from Loretto announcements by Eleanor Craig SL