



**Sister Barbara Jenkins, SC**  
Entered eternal life on June 11, 2020

Today we have heard much shared about Sister Barbara Jenkins. As I listened to each person speak about Barbara, I heard the same qualities and actions repeated many times. How wonderful to hear.

“You have a vocation which obliges you to help, without any discrimination, all sorts of person men, women, children, and in general all poor persons who need your assistance....”

Conferences of Saint Vincent de Paul

Conference 92, January 6, 1658:

Relationships with Externs, etc. (Common Rules, Art 33, 34, 35)  
(Leonard p. 128)

Hasn't this been Barbara's response? When I was reflecting on Barbara, I had a sense that when Barbara was born into the family of Henry and Ruth Jenkins, she also was born into the Vincentian Family infused with Vincentian DNA. She lived and reflected the vocation of Vincent, Louise de Marillac, Elizabeth Seton while following the words of Mother Xavier, “God Alone.”

I asked some sisters what word or words came when they thought of Barbara Jenkins.

- Total commitment to the impoverished and underserved people.
- Courageous....always placed herself with people who were being mistreated...who were living in violent situations.
- Selfless...She was like the First Responders of today....always ready to go where the need called.
- Abundant Compassion...Barbara wept with those who wept, with those who suffered, and with those in need of healing and freedom.
- Persistent. The Sister who told me this, remembered how she would make a case for what she wanted or saw needed and would persist until it resulted in action.

Barbara's energy and passion either drew you into the “what” or you moved away quickly. Mentioned today was the sharing community member that she was in Connecticut. That was important to Barbara, to pray, to do theological reflection and to share, and, of course, to have a good meal. She always found a faith- sharing group, or created a similar experience, no matter where she was in ministry. Many times she also managed to be active in the parish as a member of the choir or as a member of the social justice committee, and, even the Liturgy Committee. My experience of Barbara was that she had a deep relationship with God and that scripture guided her life. Her passion and compassion moved her from prayer into action.

The healing ministry was who and what Barbara was about. These skills served her well as she responded to her call to accompany all. Her energy, her passion and compassion, her zeal for justice are among the great legacy that she has left us. Barbara, while you no longer are with us physically, you are with us in spirit. Your work for advocacy, justice and peace goes with you. We count on you to intercede for us, the Sisters of Charity and for all the needs that we have. We count on you to move heaven and to bring peace, wellness and healing to a world that is broken and in need of mending. Thank you, Barbara, for your life lived among us as a Sister of Charity.

Sister Judy Mertz, SC