



Claire E. Whittaker

July 5, 1951 - February 12, 2022

Claire Eileen (Smart) Whittaker of Logan Township, NJ passed away on February 12, 2022 after a long battle with liver disease. Only 70 years old, she was born in Hawaii before it was officially a state and moved around the country many times in her early years with her military parents. After attending Our Lady of Angels (now Neumann University) with her many friends, she met the love of her life, Bill, and they married in 1976.

Claire dedicated her life to Catholic education, spending time in both the archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Camden dioceses. She taught at Holy Spirit in Sharon Hill, PA, St. Michael's in Gibbstown, NJ, and St. Joseph's in Swedesboro, NJ before earning her Masters in Education at Rowan University and moving into school administration. She was the principal of St. James Grammar School in Penns Grove, NJ, and Bishop Guilfoyle Regional School in Carneys Point, NJ, and ended her 40 year career as Assistant Principal at St. Mary School in Williamstown. There was nothing she loved more than her students, and the children who needed the most help and guidance always found her. Her children always joked with her that they had thousands of siblings out there. She was the kind of woman who could never leave a grocery store without someone recognizing her and telling her how much she had helped their child. She believed in Catholic education more than anything and continued so support it until the day she died.

Her retirement wasn't particularly fun, filled with hospitals and illness, but she took it like a champ. If anyone were to list out all the things that had happened to her over the years, I don't think most people would believe it, but her faith and her family carried her through. She loved camping with her husband and granddaughter, crafting wreaths for neighbors, making blankets for family, and watching Jason Statham movies. She loved the beach, and taking cruises with her husband and their friends. Laughing and staying up late were her favorites, and she always worried about everyone else. She was blessed with faithful college friends, and former co-workers, and her time with them was so important to her.

Clarie was the Beloved wife of William J. Whittaker, Jr, who fought tirelessly at her side for 45 years. The mother of Erin Teresa Whittaker, her biggest advocate, and of Sean Joseph Whittaker, her angel on earth with the most patience. All of Swedesboro, NJ. She was blessed with a bonus daughter, Amber Arroyo of Waterford Works, and her granddaughter Skye Lynn was the light of her life.

Claire was the sister of Kevin Smart (Mary) of Michigan, Karen Smart of Washington, John Smart of Colorado, Rita Marie Smart-Kubala (Gary) of Maryland and Suzanne Smart of California. Sister-in-law of Thomas Whittaker (Denise) of Deptford, Virginia Whittaker of Deptford, Virginia Price of Philadelphia and Eileen Flannigan of Florida. Claire had too many nieces and nephews to count, but she loved them all. She was pre-deceased by her brother Brian Smart, sister-in-law Ellen Smith, brothers-in-law James Whittaker, Francis Smith, and Edward Price.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a viewing Friday, February 18, 2022 from 6pm to 9pm in The Chapel at BOUCHER FUNERAL HOME, 1757 Delsea Dr., Deptford, NJ 08096.

Family and friends will meet Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 11am at St. Clare of Assisi Parish at St. Joseph's Church, 140 West Broad St., Swedesboro, NJ 08085 for a Mass of Christian Burial.

THERE WILL BE NO VIEWING ON SATURDAY.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Joseph's Indian School, PO Box 89
Chamberlain, SD 57325 or CHILDFUND INTERNATIONAL
2821 EMERYWOOD PARKWAY, RICHMOND, VA 23294

For directions, to sign online guest book and to view Claire's Video Tribute visit www.boucherfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB 18. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Boucher Funeral Home
1757 Delsea Drive
Deptford, NJ 08096

A Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 19. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Clare of Assisi Parish at St. Joseph's Church
140 Broad St.
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

Tribute Wall



“ *Boucher Funeral Home, LLC & Gloucester County Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Claire E. Whittaker*



Boucher Funeral Home, LLC & County Cremation Service - February 17, 2022 at 11:35 AM



Beautiful tribute.

Jan Bruni - February 18, 2022 at 11:20 AM



“ *Claire E. Whittaker*

November 27, 2022 at 03:45 PM

JP

“ *To the Whittaker Family:*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Our two sons, John Jr. (Class of 2015) and Michael (Class of 2017) attended Saint Marys School. The school community is very special. Mrs. Whittaker was an excellent vice principle who was very good with the students and families. She touched so many lives in positive ways and that lives on through her students.
"What you do in life, echoes in eternity."*

John Paccione and Family

John Paccione - February 18, 2022 at 04:36 PM



“ *Claire was a special lady. Her devotion to Catholic education was evident to everyone who worked with her.
We shared many laughs together though the years.
She was so strong and never gave up through all of her health battles. She will be missed, but heaven has another angel.*



Jan Bruni - February 18, 2022 at 11:06 AM



“ 100 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Boucher Funeral Home, LLC & County Cremation Service - February 17, 2022 at 11:34 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Erin, Sean and Bill-what a wonderful woman with an everlasting legacy .Clair's rewards will be great.*

Don McNulty, SJHS

Donald McNulty - February 17, 2022 at 05:45 AM

CR

“ My family and I are very sad to hear of Mrs. Whittaker's passing. She was such a blessing to the children of St. Mary School, especially to my son Joseph. The part of her obituary that reads, "the children who needed the most help and guidance always found her," could not ring more true for Joseph. He struggled early on, and Mrs. Whittaker was such an amazing support for Joseph and myself. I realized he was getting himself into trouble, just to go to the office to see Mrs. Whittaker because she was his voice of reason and his cheerleader, all while being his disciplinarian and holding him accountable for his actions. Still till this day, Joseph remembers, loves and appreciates Mrs. Whittaker for the love and acceptance she showed him throughout his struggles. As a mother, I appreciate and love Mrs. Whittaker for the lessons she has taught me as well. Our love and prayers are with the Whittaker family as they navigate this new normal they are forced to know.

Carla Rouse - February 16, 2022 at 10:23 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Claire E. Whittaker.



February 16, 2022 at 08:50 AM

DM

“ We are so saddened to hear of Mrs Whittaker's passing. We knew her from St Mary's and loved her from the start. She was such a positive, calming influence on my three older children and took a genuine, special interest in any struggles they faced. The community was better because of her presence. Sending prayers and love to her family.

Dorothy McClave - February 16, 2022 at 12:56 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Claire E. Whittaker.*



February 15, 2022 at 05:06 PM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Claire E. Whittaker.*



February 15, 2022 at 09:44 AM



“ *After reading hundreds and hundreds of memories and tributes, I truly believe I was married to a Saint. Off to her next Crusade! Love always. Bill W*

Bill Whittaker - February 15, 2022 at 08:00 AM



“ *After reading hundreds and hundreds of memories and tributes, I believe I was truly married to a Saint. Off to her next Crusade! Love Always. Bill W*

Bill Whittaker - February 15, 2022 at 07:42 AM

SM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Susan Mowery - February 14, 2022 at 10:31 PM

SD

“ I first met Claire in 1995, when I came to the Camden Diocese and she was the principal of St. James Elementary School in Penns Grove. She was, above all, dedicated to enriching the faith life of each and every one of her students. She was what we refer to as a "lifer" in Catholic education, and we were fortunate to have her as a principal in several of our schools. If I could use one word to describe Claire, it would be "kind."

My sympathy to her husband and family.

*Sister Rose DiFluri
Assistant Superintendent
Diocese of Camden*



Sister Rose DiFluri - February 14, 2022 at 02:21 PM