



Mary Frances (Callery) Hennessy

May 29, 2021

Mary Frances Hennessy (nee Callery), long time resident of West Hartford, CT, passed away peacefully on Saturday, 29 May, 2021 after a particularly rich life. She will be remembered fondly by the many folks whose lives she touched through her teaching, her volunteering, her mothering, and grandmothering.

Born to Francis and Mary Callery, (nee Rourke) on 22 August 1934, she was raised in West Hartford. She graduated from Mount St. Joseph Academy, and went on to earn her undergraduate degree in History from the Georgian Court College. While there, she met the love of her life, Francis X. Hennessy, who was a dashing Korean Conflict veteran attending Fordham University. Family lore says that the French clubs of the Georgian Court and Fordham did joint outings in New York City and sparks flew. Upon their respective graduations, they were married and began their life together in a small rented apartment in Hartford. In their long life together they lived in Hartford, Windsor, West Hartford and Westerly, RI. They loved travelling to visit their kids wherever they were around the globe.

Mary Fran developed a life-long career and passion for teaching English, early on at Weaver High School (where she proudly supported her students through the 1968 riots and that era of social upheaval), eventually joining the faculty at Northwest Catholic High School, serving as Chair of the English Department,

and from which she retired. But she wasn't done sharing and caring, and became an adjunct professor at St. Joseph's College, and a volunteer English as a Second Language teacher at Jubilee House. She was a communicant of St. Joseph's in Poquonock, and St. Timothy's in West Hartford.

During this period, she earned a Master's degree from Trinity College in Hartford. Her thesis explored the similar struggles faced by several prominent Black and Irish writers. She marched to free the Berrigan Brothers. She protested the Vietnam War. She went to the streets for Cesar Chavez and the farm workers. She was one of the first members appointed to the Town of Windsor's Human Relations Commission, where she was a leader of conscience. Those of us who knew her were not surprised by her ardent support for the oppressed. All of it was an outward living of her inner Catholic faith.

Her accomplishments are many, but she was most proud of achieving grandmotherhood. First, she brought four children into the world. Maura Hennessy Shaw (married to Stephen Shaw) was first, followed in short order by Mark Hennessy. She took a break for 11 years and then brought forth Matthew Hennessy (married to Barbara Weady Hennessy) and Margaret Mary Hennessy Knight (married to Thomas Knight) in quick succession. The family was then complete and on its way to bringing about her grandchildren. Meg and Tom gave us John, Edward (Teddy), Finian, and Cormac (Mac). Yes, four boys, all close in age. Mom was thrilled with the chaos and love. Happily, Matt and Barbara gave us Grace and Patrick, adding to the clan. Mom's world was full and she loved doting on, playing with, reading to, snuggling with and spending time with the grandkids--the lights of her life.

She was also a great hostess. Whether organizing a New Year's Eve party in their unfinished basement in Windsor, covering the walls in butcher paper and giving everyone markers (and drinks), or hosting the usual gaggle of her

children's friends at her beach house in Westerly, Rhode Island, she sparkled and welcomed one and all. Just as long as everyone got up and went to Church on Sunday, the day would be sunny and warm and everything would be right with the world.

Calling hours will be Monday (June 7th) from 6-8 pm at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday (June 8th) at 10 am. In the Church of St. Timothy, 1116 North Main St., West Hartford. Entombment will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family would welcome donations in Mom's name to the Northwest Catholic Fund, at Northwest Catholic High School, Attn: Advancement Office, 29 Wampanoag Dr., West Hartford, CT 06117

Please visit <https://youtu.be/VKKZvVTHpB4> for live streaming

Cemetery Details

Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery

1 Cottage Grove Rd
Bloomfield, CT

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JUN 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Timothy
1116 North Main St
West Hartford, CT 06117
(860) 233-5131

Tribute Wall



“ Molloy Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Frances (Callery) Hennessy



Molloy Funeral Home - June 05, 2021 at 12:39 PM

JS

“ Dear Hennessy family, I was deeply saddened to hear of Mary Fran's passing. Thinking of her brings back so many pleasant memories of the many years that we spent together on the faculty of Northwest Catholic HS. For most of those years our classrooms were side by side on the old 600 corridor, she in 603 and I in room 604. Mary Fran was so pleasant, so sincere, and so kind to everyone - even the most reluctant learner would succeed under her wise and watchful eyes . Her attitude was always positive and I don't believe that I ever heard her say a single word in anger during our many years together. Teaching was her vocation. She went about her day spreading knowledge and helping to make our beloved school a wonderful house of learning. I know that she was very proud of all of you and the wonderful adults that you have grown to be. She and your father, Frank, were very special people. People of humor and compassion and they are warmly remembered. I wish that I could share these thought with you in person but time and distance make that impossible. Please know that she and you are in my thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, John Shukie NWC Retired Baltimore, MD.

John Shukie - June 10, 2021 at 02:44 PM

LH

“ I send my deepest condolences to Mary Fran's family. Even though we hadn't been together very often, I have fond memories of her caring and her grace.

Louise (O'Connor) Hahn

Louise Hahn - June 07, 2021 at 03:02 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Frances (Callery) Hennessy.*



June 06, 2021 at 07:39 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Frances (Callery) Hennessy.*



June 05, 2021 at 02:56 PM

KK

“ Dear Family Hennessy,

from Germany Klaus and Karin send their condolences ...

We are very sorry to read about your loss!

We have a saying that those who left are still alive – as long as we remember them. And your mom surely left many friends ... still has many friends ...

We share your sadness!

Klaus n Karin



Klaus n Karin - June 03, 2021 at 10:41 AM



Maura
Hennessy

Thank you so much K & K. 😊

Maura Hennessy Shaw - June 04, 2021 at 08:56 PM

MB

“ *Mrs. Hennessy taught my English class at Northwest Catholic my senior year. I remember that we helped produce the Yearbook for the school. Mrs. Hennessy brought an interesting/creative view to the class while encouraging us to bring our perspectives to the class each day. I remember her laughing a lot and showing, each day, that she loved teaching and being around students. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Matt Bazzano - June 02, 2021 at 03:47 PM

JL

“ On behalf of the Northwest Catholic High School community, I offer my deepest sympathy on the passing of Mary Francis Hennessey. Mary Fran, along with her children, is a beloved member and dear friend of the Northwest Catholic community, so we mourn her loss along with all who love her. Please know that Mary Fran and her entire family will be remembered in a special way at our next school-wide Mass. We are very sorry for your loss. ~ Jane Leary, Director of Constituent Relations, Northwest Catholic High School.

Jane Leary - June 02, 2021 at 03:39 PM

KR

“ I was blessed to have your mother as a teacher at Northwest Catholic. She was a no nonsense kind of person, but made learning interesting. Continued prayers for your family

Kadian Russell - June 02, 2021 at 01:53 PM

PE

“ Peggy purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Mary Frances (Callery) Hennessy.



Peggy - June 02, 2021 at 12:48 PM

LD

“ I am very sorry for your loss. I was fortunate to have your mom as a teacher at Northwest. She was a wonderful educator. Please accept my deepest condolences.

Liz Dougherty Davis - June 01, 2021 at 08:22 PM

AM

“ *What a beautiful tribute to Mrs Hennessy, whom I knew at Northwest Catholic to be a wonderful teacher. My deepest sympathies to the family, rest in peace Mrs Hennessy. Truly a beautiful life well lived.*

Ann Marquis - June 01, 2021 at 05:58 PM

MG

“ *My deepest condolences for your loss. I have fond memories of Mrs. Hennessy at Northwest Catholic.*

Michelle Giliberto - June 01, 2021 at 05:34 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Frances (Callery) Hennessy.*



June 01, 2021 at 05:30 PM

VL

“ *Dearest Hennessy family,
Please accept my deepest condolences. Your Mom was so beautiful, kind and nurturing. I was lucky enough to be one of her students at Northwest. She was a very passionate teacher and her zest for life was contagious. I am forever grateful for her encouragement. May God bless and keep her in the palm of His hand.*

Vida Zdanys Leming - June 01, 2021 at 04:29 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Frances (Callery) Hennessy.*



June 01, 2021 at 04:19 PM



“ *Rays of Light Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Frances (Callery) Hennessy.*



June 01, 2021 at 03:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Frances (Callery) Hennessy.*



June 01, 2021 at 03:35 PM