



Sister Glenna Hassett, CSJ

(Sister St. Henry)

June 8, 1930 – April 29, 2026

*Professed Sister of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie • 77
Years of Consecrated Life*

*“I have called you by name; you are mine.”
Isaiah 43:1*

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie announce with faith and gratitude the peaceful death of Sister Glenna Hassett, who was called home to God on April 29, 2026, at St. Joseph’s Motherhouse, North Bay, the house she had served and loved for so many years. She was 95 years old and had given 77 years of her life in consecrated service as a Sister of St. Joseph. We give thanks to God for a life so faithfully and lovingly lived.

Glenna was born on June 8, 1930, in Sudbury, Ontario, the second of six children of Michael and Mae (Lineham) Hassett. From her earliest days, she was formed in a household of faith. Her mother, an Anglican convert to Catholicism, gave her children the Church as their inheritance. Raised in the Donovan Neighbourhood, in her home material poverty was real, yet spiritual richness overflowed. In that humble household, faith was not an abstraction but a daily rhythm, most tenderly expressed in the family rosary prayed each evening. It was here that Glenna first learned that God’s grace is never measured by abundance of possessions, but by the openness of the heart.

It was at St. Aloysius School in Sudbury that Glenna first encountered the Sisters of St. Joseph, and in their witness, she recognized a call. She continued her studies at Sudbury Mining and Technical School and then at St. Joseph’s Boarding School in North Bay, assisted by the generosity of her home parish priest, Msgr. Henry Murphy of Holy Trinity parish. Inspired by the words of Bishop Dignan and, above all, by the quiet invitation of God spoken in the depths of her heart, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie on September 6, 1948. She was eighteen years old. In religious life, she received the name Sister St. Henry, honouring her spiritual director and mentor, Msgr. Henry Murphy. She had heard the voice of God that said to her, “Come, follow me” (Matthew 4:19), and she followed, simply, wholeheartedly, for the rest of her days.

Glenna’s call to religious life was, in her own words, a call “to grow spiritually and to be of service.” She did both, every day, for 77 years. The charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph calls each member to love of God and love of neighbour without distinction, to seek the union of all people with God and with one another. What unfolded over the decades was a life that never ceased reaching toward that “more”—more love, more generosity, more faithfulness.

For Sister Glenna, this charisma found vivid expression in the classroom. For more than three decades, she taught in schools across Northern Ontario including Garden River, Wiikwemikoong, Sault Ste. Marie, Ferris, Port Arthur, Schreiber, Sudbury, and Thunder Bay. She served as principal in several of these schools, and she taught every grade from primary through secondary school. She would say, with characteristic simplicity, “I loved teaching. I loved children, especially younger children, and I became a better teacher as the years went on. In this mutuality, Glenna revealed something essential: the call to “the more” is not a striving for greatness, but a willingness to be continually formed. Each student she taught was a soul entrusted to her care, and she took that trust seriously.

In 1981 Sister Glenna returned to Sudbury, where she taught English and Religion at Marymount College and later served as its full-time librarian until 1990. She was, as the Letter to the Romans says, “never lacking in zeal, but keeping her spiritual fervour, serving the Lord” (Romans 12:11). After retiring from teaching, she pursued further theological formation at the Applied School of Theology in Berkeley, California, ever the student, ever deepening her understanding of the God she had given her life to serve. She then returned to ministry in Sudbury until moving to St. Joseph’s Motherhouse in January 2011.

At the Motherhouse, Sister Glenna discovered what the consecrated heart already knows: there is always more love to give, always another way to serve. She helped wherever she was needed in what she called simply “odd jobs.” In 2016, she was asked to assume responsibility for the Motherhouse Library. She gave it four more years of faithful stewardship, making it a quiet place of welcome, study, and encounter. Even in her final years, her first instinct was always to ask: “How can I help?” This was not mere helpfulness; it was holiness. It was the daily practice of the servant whom the Lord commended: “Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant” (Matthew 20:26).

Sister Glenna’s vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience were not merely words pronounced at the altar of her profession. They were the architecture of her life. Her poverty was evident in her contentment with little and her delight in simple things. Her chastity expressed itself in a heart undivided, given wholly to God and freely poured out for all. Her obedience was the quiet, daily offering of her will to God through her congregation, walking where she was sent, serving as she was asked, trusting God who had always been faithful. She lived what St. Paul described: “I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content” (Philippians 4:11).

One of the great gifts of Sister Glenna’s life was her friendship with Sister Barbara McKinnon, whom she first met in Sault Ste. Marie and whose friendship deepened in their years of ministry in Thunder Bay. “Friendship,” said Sirach, “is a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure” (Sirach 6:14). Sister Glenna knew this treasure in Sister Barbara, and carried that friendship always, as one carries something precious, even after Sister Barbara’s death in October 2010. In her later years at the Motherhouse, Glenna’s capacity for warmth and genuine joy never dimmed. She greeted every visitor with a smile and an embrace. She danced when the music moved her. She gave thanks always, extravagantly, for the blessings of a long and graced life.

Hers was the life described in the prophet Micah's words: "to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). She walked that path, steadily and without complaint, from a rosary-filled home in the Donovan to the chapel at St. Joseph's Motherhouse, and now into the fullness of the light she spent her life moving toward.

We believe, with confidence in the God who called her, that she now hears the words she spent her life learning: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Come and share your Master's joy" (Matthew 25:21, 23). In every season, Glenna remained faithful to the inner movement that had first drawn her: the call to go further, to trust more deeply, to give more freely. Hers was not a dramatic life, but it was a profoundly faithful one, a life shaped not by grand gestures, but by daily fidelity to grace.

Glenna was predeceased by her parents, Michael and Mae; her siblings, Mary Tessier, Shirley Bushey, Michael Hassett and Connie Bonhomme; her dear sister, Sister Patricia Hassett CSJ; and her beloved friend, Sister Barbara McKinnon, CSJ. She is survived by many nieces and nephews, who continued the Hasset tradition of loving support throughout the journey of life.

All are welcome to join the Sisters in welcoming Sister Glenna home to the Motherhouse. We will gather for prayer in the Holy Family Chapel on Tuesday **May 5, 2026, at 2 pm**, followed by a Prayer Service celebrating Glenna's life and faith at **4 pm**. The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Wednesday, **May 6, 2026, at 11 am**. Expressions of sympathy may be shared on the Motherhouse Facebook page. Donations in Sister Glenna's memory may be made to the ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.