

# Sister Dolores Crosby, longtime educator, dies at 72

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**Whenever Franklin High School basketball coach Jason Kerr would send an e-mail to his beloved teacher, he would proofread it four times...**

By [Susan Gilmore](#)

Whenever Franklin High School basketball coach Jason Kerr would send an e-mail to his beloved teacher, he would proofread it four times before sending it.

Sister Dolores Crosby “was better than spellcheck,” said Kerr. “She’d

never miss an opportunity to correct something we wrote.”

Sister Crosby, a longtime educator, died of cancer Sunday in her convent home in Spokane. She was 72.

Sister Crosby, known as Dixie to her friends and family, grew up in Spokane, the niece of famed crooner Bing Crosby. When she and her twin sister were born, their dad sent Bing Crosby a telegram: “It takes three of a kind to beat two queens.” A few months later, when Bing Crosby’s twin sons were born, the singer sent a telegram: “A pair of kings arrived today.

After teaching in Spokane, Sister Crosby moved to the Seattle area, where she taught at Holy Rosary School in Edmonds and served as principal at Our Lady of the Lake School in Seattle and Immaculate Conception School in Everett.

Kerr, who attended Lady of the Lake, said he remained friends

with Sister Crosby until her death. “She had a big impact on my life, keeping me grounded,” he said. “She ... had a big part in what I do.”

Sister Crosby’s twin sister, Katie Ferguson, who lives in Richland, said her sister always called her “womb mate” and the two were very close.

When they were in grade school, the two sisters would be seated next to each other, and Sister Crosby would whisper the answers to her sister.

Through her career, Sister Crosby liked preparing her students for life beyond grade school, friends and family said.

Longtime friend Marge Davis, who met Sister Crosby when she worked in Spokane, said, “Everything she did was such a joy. The kids loved her and would go back and visit her long after they graduated. I never met a

person who could keep so many friends.”

Sister Crosby was also a Seattle Mariners fan and was named a Seattle Times Fan of the Week in 2001.

She could rattle off batting averages and pitching records. She carried her keys on a Joey Cora key ring, decorated the walls of her Brier home with baseball calendars and cooked from a Mariners cookbook.

Sister Crosby also is survived by brothers Howard, of Walla Walla, and Ed, of Spokane, and sister Antonia Crosby, of Peabody, Mass.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Sisters of Holy Names provincial house in Spokane. The family asks that any donations in her name be sent to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, 2911 W. Fort Wright Drive,

Spokane, WA 99224.

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