

Barbara Dale Miller O'Leary

Defend the truth with charity and firmness
when the things of God are at stake.

-St. Josemaria Escriva

My child, all the seas of this world are ours
and the places where it is harder to fish are
the places where it is all the more necessary.

-St. Josemaria Escriva

I, the Lord have called you in righteousness; I
will take hold of your hand.

-Isaiah 42:6

Dale O'Leary was born on January 28, 1941 in Peoria Illinois. She and Terrence O'Leary, her husband of 62 years, were residents of Avon Park for twenty years after moving from their former residence in Providence, RI. In addition to her husband, she leaves four children: Kelly O'Leary of Washington, D.C.; Terrence, Jr. of Dripping Springs, TX; Thomas of Avon Park, FL; and Bryan of Avon Park and Byron Bay, Australia. She has 18 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Dale graduated from Smith College in 1963. She published two books, over 500 articles in print, and wrote four unpublished novels. She was tireless in her efforts to address the critical social, religious and political issues of our times. She is known for her prophetic insight and ability to read the signs of the times.

Dale joined the Catholic Church in 1965. Using her formidable skills in research, history and archaeology, she studied the Bible intensely. In 1976 she began to teach Bible classes to women, a practice she continued here at Our Lady of Grace for as long as she was physically able.

In 1985, Dale received a vocation to Opus Dei, a Prelature of the Catholic Church for lay people. Her vocation nourished her faith and gave direction to her initiatives and outreach, which became deeper and more far-reaching as she matured.

Dale was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2013. She retained her characteristic cheerfulness throughout her illness, continuing to spend her time writing with the help of her daughter and granddaughter. She passed away at home on November 1, 2025.