

---

---

O B I T U A R Y

**Sister Antoinette Marie Damato, OP**

(Sister Mary Conrad, OP)

On the morning of April 5, 2016 Sister Antoinette Damato was welcomed into the warm embrace of the God she loved and served. Sister was 88 years old and had dedicated seventy years to religious life as a Dominican Sister of Amityville.

Antoinette was born in Brooklyn, New York on July 21, 1927 to Anthony and Josephine Proeller Damato. It was at St. Nicholas Parish, Brooklyn, that she first became acquainted with the Dominican Sisters. On February 2, 1945, she was accepted as a candidate to the Congregation and on August 6, 1945, Antoinette received the Dominican habit and the name Sister Mary Conrad. She pronounced her religious vows one year later. After Vatican II, she returned to her baptismal name.

From 1946 to 1967, Sister's ministry was in education. She taught elementary grades at St. Barbara's, Brooklyn until 1955 when she began teaching high school at St. Agnes Academic High School, College Point. In 1966, Sister joined the faculty of St. John the Baptist High School in West Islip and in 1967 she was elected as Councilor to the Executive Board, a position she held until 1973.

During the exciting and often turbulent times of change following Vatican II, Sister Antoinette assumed responsibility for the area of Spiritual Life Development on the Executive Board and was liaison to the many formation groups—Affiliates, Postulants, Novices, and Sisters in Temporary Commitment. She is fondly remembered by the many Dominican women she accompanied on their early journey in religious life. Inter-congregational meetings were held in various areas of New York and New Jersey making it necessary for her to learn to drive! She long remembered driving alone over the George Washington Bridge, praying that the toll would land in the box!



*“God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.”*

*~1 Corinthians 6:14*

In 1971, Sister moved to Incarnation Convent in Queens Village and, when her term of office ended in 1973, she taught religious education at St. Thomas Apostle in Woodhaven. From 1975 to 1981, Sister was Director of Religious Education at St. Hugh in Huntington Station. When she returned to secondary education in 1981 at Queen of the Rosary Academy, Amityville, Sister lived community at John XIII Hall. From 1985 to 1998 she ministered in Pastoral/Support Services at the Motherhouse in Amityville and lived at Our Lady of Lourdes Convent, Massapequa Park. In 2004, Sister returned to Amityville, first residing in St. Albert Hall and then in Carlin Hall.

Sister Antoinette skillfully created beautiful counted cross stitch pieces, many of which were framed and hung around the Motherhouse. These pieces were a reflection of the beauty of her own life which has been an inspiration to her Sisters. When her eyesight weakened, she was no longer able to do the needlework she so enjoyed. Eventually, biweekly trips for dialysis treatment became necessary, and Sister was able to offer comfort and to model courage for the many patients she encountered and for her Sisters and the staff of Carlin Hall.

Sister Antoinette will be remembered and missed by her loving family members, her friends and by her Sisters in the Congregation.

All services will take place in St. Albert Chapel of the Motherhouse in Amityville. The wake will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016 from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. On Friday, April 8, 2016, after a Morning Prayer Service at 10:10 a.m., the Mass of Christian burial will take place. Burial in the Sisters' cemetery will follow immediately after the Mass.

