
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Patricia Clare Barry, OP

(Sister M. Francis Magdalen, OP)

On Easter Monday morning, March 28, 2016, God called Sister Patricia Clare Barry, O.P. to her eternal home. Sister was 84 years old and had devoted 64 years to her Dominican religious life.

Patricia was born in Brooklyn, NY on May 27, 1931 to Patrick and Frieda Barry. She first came to know the Dominican Sisters of Amityville at St. Patrick Parish, Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, NY. She entered the Novitiate in Amityville on September 8, 1951. Patricia received her Dominican habit and the name Sister M. Francis Magdalen one year later. After the Second Vatican Council she returned to her baptismal name, Patricia.

For most of her life in Ministry Sister Pat, as she was known, was an educator. She taught in the Parish schools of St. Frances Cabrini, Brooklyn; Holy Redeemer, Freeport, NY; Our Lady of Lourdes, Malverne; Cure of Ars. Merrick; Corpus Christi, Woodside; St. Mary Star of the Sea in Brooklyn where she was asked to be Principal for a year; Our Lady of Solace, Brooklyn; St. Boniface, Elmont; and, Sacred Heart, East Glendale. As a teacher, Sister was knowledgeable, patient and exhibited a quick and enjoyable sense of humor. These same qualities marked her life with the Sisters. Pat was prayerful, a woman of integrity, honest and forthright, a true believer in Veritas, kind and compassionate to anyone in need and possessed of a good sense of humor. A wonderful conversationalist with a ready smile, she also had the great gift of being a good listener, always with gentleness and sensitivity to another.

One of Pat's many gifts was a thirst for knowledge. Already possessing a B.A. from St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY, Sister Pat pursued an M.S in Social Science at the CUNY Richmond College in Staten Island. Subsequently, she received her Master of Divinity degree from Seton Hall University, NJ. These studies she put to good use in her ministry as the Director of Religious Education in the parish of Notre Dame, New Hyde Park and as Pastoral Service



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

~John 11:25-26

Coordinator in St. Hugh Parish, Huntington Station. In this ministry Pat found herself remembering Spanish which she had studied a while ago and becoming quite fluent in the language, a great help to a changing parish population.

In 1989 Pat returned to classroom teaching at St. Frances Cabrini School in Brooklyn. Illness necessitated a medical leave in 1996, however. In 1997 Sister Pat returned to her educational ministry as a Resource staff member at Our Lady of Refuge school in Brooklyn. Subsequently, she ministered as Librarian in St. Vincent Ferrer School. Finally, because of further deterioration in her health Pat retired and moved with her dear friend Sister Jean Peter to Ridge, NY with the ministry of intercessory prayer. She was proud of her Irish heritage and she and Sister Jean called their residence Tir Na Nog, "House of Hospitality" or "House of Young Age". There Pat continued faithfully in intercessory prayer until it was necessary to move to Carlin Hall in the Motherhouse in Amityville. Sister Pat had special health needs which necessitated a further move to Gurwin Jewish Nursing Home in Commack, NY. Sister Pat was always grateful for all the kindnesses she received from her health professionals both in Amityville and Commack. Her time at Gurwin was a time to come to peace which she could do with the love and support of the personnel there.

Sister Pat will be missed by her many friends, the Sisters in the Congregation, as well as by her nephews Patrick, Larry and Chris Gilmore and their extended families.

All services will take place in St. Albert's Chapel of the Motherhouse in Amityville. The wake for Sister will be on Wednesday afternoon, March 30, 2016 from 3p.m. until 5p.m. On Thursday, March 31, 2016, after a Morning Prayer service at 10:10a.m., the Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:30a.m. Burial in the Sisters' cemetery will follow immediately after the Mass.

