God called Sister Mary Joyce LeRoy home to her eternal reward on October 8, 2014. Sister was 92 years old and lived the Dominican Religious life for 74 years.

The daughter of Norman and A. Vera LeRoy, Joan Mary was born in Brooklyn on August 4, 1922. She first met the Amityville Dominicans in her parish, St. Thomas the Apostle in Woodhaven, NY. Subsequently Joan Mary entered the Dominican Sisters’ Juniorate, a high school located at the time in Watermill, NY and, upon graduation entered the Congregation on September 12, 1940. She was accepted into the Congregation on August 4, 1941 and received the holy habit and the name Sister Mary Joyce.

Sister Mary Joyce began her ministry in education at St. Barbara’s School, Brooklyn, NY where she taught elementary school classes. Her ministry continued on the high school level where she taught Mathematics in the following schools: Dominican Commercial; St. Barbara’s HS; St. Agnes Academic High School, College Point, NY; St. Bartholomew, Elmhurst, an annex to Bishop McDonnell Memorial HS; Annunciation, Brooklyn; Bishop McDonnell Memorial HS, Brooklyn; All Saints, Brooklyn; Bishop Reilly HS, Fresh Meadows, NY; and Bishop Loughlin HS, Brooklyn, NY.

In 1980 Sister Mary Joyce received special permission to minister to her family in Glendale, NY because of their illness. She cared for her mother lovingly until her mother’s death in 1992. Her special fondness for animals, especially dogs, was apparent during that time as she assisted her mother in the care of the family dog. This fondness continued throughout her life and good friends used to bring their dog to visit her for many years. From 1992-2000 Sister lived in St. Margaret’s Convent in Middle Village, NY and ministered through her faithful intercessory prayer. In 2000 Sister moved to St. Albert’s community at the Motherhouse because of failing health. As her health continued to deteriorate she moved to Carlin Hall in 2011. Because of failing health it was difficult for Sister to talk but she often communicated with a smile. She struggled to remain as independent as possible despite her infirmities. Sister Mary Joyce was observed often praying in Chapel for extended periods of time.

Sister loved baseball, particularly the New York Yankees who were recipients of her prayers throughout their season. Along with many Yankee fans, Sister had a special admiration for Derek Jeter and kept a picture of him in her room in Amityville.

While Sister Mary Joyce has no survivors from her immediate family, she is survived by devoted friends whom one might consider her adopted family. She will be missed by Mrs. Gertrude Honkanen, her daughters Lisa, M.D. and Linda, and by the extended family and friends of the Honkanen family, as well as by her Amityville Dominican Sisters.

The wake will take place on Friday afternoon October 10, 2014 in St. Albert’s Chapel at the Motherhouse from 3 p.m. A prayer service will begin at 10:10 on Saturday, October 11, followed by The Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30. Interment will be in the Sisters’ cemetery immediately after the Mass.