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O B I T U A R Y

**Sister Christine Francis Kennedy, OP**

On the morning of June 20, Sister Christine Francis Kennedy was called by God to her eternal home. Sister was 86 years old and had dedicated 64 years to life as a Dominican Sister of Amityville.

Patricia, the daughter of James and Mary Mullane Kennedy, was born on January 30, 1930 and was raised along with her two brothers and two sisters in Jackson Heights, New York. On September 8, 1951, she entered the Dominican Sisters and on August 4, 1952 she received the habit and her name in religion, Christine Francis.

Christine's life in ministry was rich and varied. For the first two decades she was involved in education. From 1953 to 1960, she taught elementary school at St. Agnes Cathedral School in Rockville Centre, Blessed Virgin Mary Help of Christians in Woodside, and Sacred Heart in East Glendale. In 1960, she was assigned to teach business subjects in St. Michael High School in Brooklyn and then in 1962 she began teaching at All Saints High School in Brooklyn. From 1964 to 1971, Christine taught Business Administration at Catholic University in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Upon returning to New York, she pursued a Master of Social Work degree at Yeshiva University and began a ministry that would be the highlight of her professional life. With Sisters Mary Ann Cynrik, Mary Elizabeth Kelleher, and Peggy Murphy, and layman, Jim Cusack, Christine was part of the foundation of Veritas Villa, a nationally known and acclaimed alcohol rehabilitation center, first located on the grounds of St. Joseph



For I am sure that neither death nor life...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

~Romans 8:38-39

in Monticello and currently located in Kerhonkson, New York. In her oral history, Christine commented that "this work was a testimony to grace, a testimony to a work that is so of God, so of healing."

In 1977, Sister Christine was elected Regional Superior and served on the Executive Board of the Congregation until 1981. She then ministered as counselor at Dominican Commercial High School and at Bishop Kearney High School, served as a supervisor for Alcoholism Serve—Stop DWI, and was a Social Worker at St. Gregory Service Center in Bellerose. When her health began to fail, she came to Carlin Hall at Queen of the Rosary Motherhouse. Ever conscious of Sisters who were undergoing surgery or in failing health, Christine would regularly remind all to hold them in prayer. As she approached death, her Sisters did the same for her.

Sister Christine was predeceased by her brother, Jim, and by her sisters, Fran and Joan. She is survived by her brother, Jack, and his wife, Margie, and by her niece and nephews. She will be missed by her loving family and by her Sisters in community.

Services will take place in St. Albert Chapel of the Motherhouse in Amityville. The wake will be Sunday, June 26 at 3:00 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Monday, June 27, immediately following Morning Prayer at 10:10 a.m. Burial will follow in the Sisters' cemetery.

*May Christine rest in peace forever.*

