
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Anne Umbach, OP

(S. Marie St. John)

On the morning of Thursday, April 2, 2020, our beloved Sister Anne Umbach was called into eternal life, and now rests in the loving embrace of the God she loved and served as a Sister of St. Dominic for 68 years. Anne was 86 years old.

Charles and Catherine (Lally) Umbach welcomed their daughter, Annamae, into their family on August 12, 1933. Anne's early education was at Our Lady of Cenacle School in Richmond Hill, N.Y. where she was taught by the Sisters of Charity of Halifax. When the family moved to East New York, Brooklyn, Anne continued her education at St. Michael Elementary School. It was there that she met the Sisters of St. Dominic and was attracted to their life. Her eighth-grade teacher, Sister Ann Dominici, told her about Villa Maria, the Dominican Sisters' Juniorate in Water Mill, N.Y. and Anne chose the Villa for high school. It provided an environment in which Anne thrived. She told a friend that life at the Villa was peaceful and tranquil; it was a place where she experienced love, support and understanding.

After graduating from Villa Maria, Anne entered the Novitiate as a postulant on September 8, 1951. On August 4, 1952, she was clothed in the Dominican habit and received her religious name, Sister Marie St. John. She professed her vows on August 7, 1953.

Anne earned a Bachelor of Arts at Molloy College, Rockville Centre, N.Y. and a Master of Science at St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y. Her ministry in elementary education began at Notre Dame, New Hyde Park and continued at St. Ignatius, Hicksville; Our Lady of Lourdes, Malverne and Corpus Christi, Mineola. In 1977, she was assigned to teach at St. John the Baptist High School, West Islip and lived in community at John XXIII Hall in Amityville. She spent three years in Congregational Services at Queen of the Rosary Motherhouse before assuming the role of Director of Financial Aid at Molloy College, a position she held until 1991. When



“My soul longs for your salvation;
I hope in your word.”

- Psalm 119:81

Dominican Village, a senior living facility on the Motherhouse grounds, was in the planning stage, Anne provided clerical services. During that time, she and Sister Carolyn Sullivan were based in Seraphina Cottage, the original novitiate house. In 1994 she returned to St. John the Baptist High School as Administrative Assistant to Nan Doherty, then Assistant Principal. Her years at St. John's were a highlight of Anne's ministries. Although she retired from active ministry in 2003, Anne continued to share her gifts as a volunteer at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip and at Kindertowne, a day care center at the Motherhouse. She loved little children and thoroughly enjoyed her time with them.

Anne and her long-time friend, Sister Nancy Farry, shared community in Merrick before moving to one of the apartments on the Motherhouse grounds. She loved to walk the grounds and was an avid reader. She was also a very good “cleaner”! Nancy described Anne as a prayerful woman who was kind, generous and forgiving; she was a good friend, a truly good person—a sign of joy and hope. Over the years, she became a member of Nancy's family, known as Aunt Anne to the children. She relished the fun and laughter at Farry family gatherings and celebrations.

Anne was predeceased by her parents, her two sisters and her brother. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Nancy Umbach; her nephews, Richard and Michael; many cousins; her faithful friend, Nancy Farry and by her sisters in community. A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at the Motherhouse on Monday, April 6. Interment will follow in the sisters' cemetery.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the Motherhouse is closed to outside guests and visitors. We ask that all who knew and loved Anne will join in prayer from afar for the repose of the soul of this kind and generous woman.

May Anne be held gently in the palm of God's hand.

