

**Sister Denise Haviland, OP**

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On August 30, 2023, as the magnificent blue moon was rising, our beloved sister, Denise Haviland, was welcomed into eternity by the God she loved and served for 29 years as a Sister of St. Dominic. She was 72 years old.



John (Jack) and Ann Dougherty Haviland welcomed Denise, the first of their 11 children, on July 6, 1951. This large, close, and loving family was raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. All the children attended St. Cecilia Elementary School at their home parish.

Following graduation from Cardinal Dougherty High School, Denise attended Manor College in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania and received an associate in science degree. In 1984, she entered the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, a community she continued to love and support. In 1994, Denise entered the Sisters of St. Dominic and professed first vows on September 6, 1997 and final vows on August 28, 2004.

Her early ministries were as an administrative assistant at Dominican Commercial High School in Jamaica, New York (NY); Catholic Medical Center Emergency Services Institute, Douglaston, NY; and Catherine McAuley High School, Brooklyn, NY. She later served as administrative assistant at Ss. Joseph and Dominic Academy, Brooklyn, NY. She received a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry at the Pastoral Formation

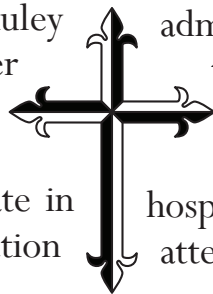
Institute, Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY.

As a member of the Sisters of St. Dominic, she shared community in several convents. For almost a decade she, two Sisters of St. Joseph, and another Dominican sister lived at Providence House in Coney Island, a residence for formerly incarcerated women. She then lived in community at St. Mary's Convent, Roslyn, NY and, until her death, at Hope Community in Hicksville, NY.

Long before Denise entered the Dominicans, her commitment to the sick and to marginalized people was evident. She volunteered with the Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa's community), and she spent one night a week helping care for women dying with AIDS.

For over two decades, Denise's pastoral care ministry was among the elderly and infirm. She was a chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Brooklyn and at St. John's Hospital in Queens, and ministered at Christa House in West Babylon, a home for those living with end-stage AIDS.

In 2009, Denise became Chaplain at Dominican Village, Amityville where she remained until her death. She was loved and admired by the residents and staff. She was truly compassionate, and she was an attentive listener as residents shared stories, joys, and sorrows. Denise visited hospitals and rehabilitation facilities, and attended wakes and funerals, offering family



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members comfort and hope. “Compassion,” Pope Francis reminds us, “is the language of God.” Denise was fluent in that language.

An accomplished dancer, Denise taught line dancing to the residents at Dominican Village and choreographed liturgical dance set to the Magnificat which she and the residents performed at one of our Congregational liturgies.

Denise was deeply devoted to the Blessed Mother especially through the rosary, and she shared this devotion with many. Her love for the Eucharist and for Eucharistic adoration nourished her spiritual life. She was a lector at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Copiague and later at Pius X Residence for Senior Priests in Amityville. Denise attended Rachel’s Vineyard retreats offering compassion and support to persons recovering from the trauma of abortion. Each fall, she went on the Ad Lumina Christi Retreat at Malvern Retreat House in Malvern, Pennsylvania and often attended the Dominican Associates Retreat in Water Mill.

A serious and skilled card player, Denise enjoyed gathering with other sisters and

associates for a weekend game. She also loved her summer weekends with family at the Jersey Shore and with her sisters at the pool in Amityville. She was a summer person relishing God’s gifts of warmth, sun, and water.

Denise is survived by her loving sisters, Ann, Eileen, and Karen; by her brothers, John, Eugene, Patrick, Paul, Daniel, and Matthew; by her sisters and brothers-in-law; by her loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews; and by her large and loving extended family. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Stephen. Her family and her sisters in community will miss her presence among them but will be comforted by precious memories.

All services for our dear Sister Denise will be held in St. Albert Chapel at Queen of the Rosary Motherhouse. Visitation will take place on Thursday, September 7 at 9:15 AM. A Prayer Service will begin at 10:15 AM. The Mass of Christian Burial will follow immediately at 10:45 AM. Then, interment in St. Dominic Cemetery located on the Motherhouse grounds will take place.

*~May our beloved Sister Denise be held in the gentle arms of God~*

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