
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Lucille D'Amelio, OP

(S. Peter Magdalen)

On August 16, 2023, the whispering voice of God quietly called home to God's eternal embrace our dear Sister Lucille D'Amelio. Lucille was 80 years old and had been a Sister of St. Dominic of Amityville for 60 years.

On January 14, 1943, Lucille Augusta D'Amelio was born to Peter and Catherine (Gulotta) D'Amelio and was welcomed into a warm and close-knit Italian family in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York. During those World War II years, she grew up surrounded by aunts and cousins. When Lucille graduated from All Saints School in Brooklyn, and the family grew to include her brother Angelo and her sister Augusta, it moved to Cambria Heights, NY. Then, Lucille made the daily trip from Queens into Bishop McDonnell High School in Brooklyn where she continued to be taught by the Dominican Sisters and where she made lifelong friendships. After graduation in 1960, she enjoyed life in the business world for two years.

On September 9, 1962, Lucille joined almost 70 other young women and entered the Novitiate at Amityville. On August 5, 1963, she received the habit and her religious name, Sr. Peter Magdalen. Her "set" became known as the Peonies. Lucille professed her First Vows on August 7, 1964 and her Final Vows on August 7, 1967.

Lucille received a Bachelor of Arts in History/Social Studies from what is now



"The Lord himself will go before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forget you. Don't be afraid and don't worry."

- Deuteronomy 31:8

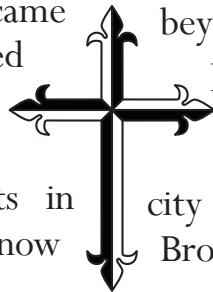
known as Molloy University in Rockville Centre, NY and a Master of Theology degree from St. Michael's College, Winooski, Vermont.

Lucille began her long ministry as an educator in 1964 at St. Agnes Cathedral School in Rockville Centre, NY. She continued in teaching in Notre Dame School in New Hyde Park, NY before being appointed as Principal in American Martyrs School in Bayside, NY. After two years teaching in St. Agnes High School in Rockville Centre, Lucille moved into five years as Director of Religious Education in St. Sylvester Parish in Medford, NY.

The Community asked her to continue her education at the Institute for Religious Formation in St. Louis, Missouri before becoming the Director of Novices in Amityville from 1982 to 1985.

From 1985-1991, Lucille was Director of Religious Education in Good Shepherd, Holbrook, NY and in 1991 assumed the position as Pastoral Associate in St. Andrew Parish, Sag Harbor, NY, a position she held until 2004.

In 2004, Lucille took her itinerant preaching beyond Long Island as she accepted the position to be both Parish Pastor and Administrator in St. Patrick Parish in the small town of Ryan, Michigan. This city girl who always prided herself on her Brooklyn roots became very much at home



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among the corn and soybean farmers of central Michigan and learned to enjoy vegetables she never had known existed!

After 2009, Lucille moved on to become a Dorm Pastoral Facilitator and Presence at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. From Notre Dame, Lucille resumed living in Michigan and became the Pastoral Associate in SS. Charles & Helena Parish in Clio, MI, the position from which she retired in 2016. She continued living in Michigan until her return to the Motherhouse in August 2022.

Lucille's outgoing nature and enthusiasm found a comfortable home as religious life began to respond to Vatican II. Groups in Notre Dame Parish in New Hyde Park were forming to have "Happenings" for parish youth, and she was among the sisters who met and worked with these parish young people. She was a dependable presence and contributed so many good and useful ideas. These were also the years when on Easter Sunday in 1969, several sisters appeared in new black coats and street-length "habits" which included scapulars with mandarin collars. Lucille's mother was among the mothers whose skills at the sewing machines had the sisters looking more like nuns in the modern world.

Lucille was an avant-garde person. She liked to catch on to something new or cutting edge and run with it. She embraced changes and was often the person who moved them to happen. She had a great love of travel and wanted to see the world. The only continent that she had not visited was Antarctica; it was on her wish list!

As her life moved into the Millenium, Lucille took advantage of vacation weeks for travel afar in a wide variety of ways. She had no temerity

about signing up for an Elderhostel trip to Europe or the Middle East without knowing anyone who would be traveling with her. She loved to tell people about the day she walked along the Great Wall of China.

Lucille was not limited to land explorations; she cruised to places on both oceans and even along the Danube River. The highlight of that trip was the privilege of spending three days in Heilig Kreuz, the cloistered convent from which our first sisters came to the United States in 1853.

When Lucille was packing to leave her home in Michigan last summer, she was told that she need not bring a bookcase, there would be plenty available. She responded that one particular bookcase would be going since it perfectly contained all the albums of all the trips that she ever had taken, and they needed to come as they were!

Lucille was very close to her family and her three nieces were her pride and joy. Visits in the last few years always included pictures and stories about her young grandnieces and grandnephews whom she loved dearly.

Lucille is now among the saints in the halls of heaven, welcomed by her parents and her brother-in-law Ronald Rogers. She is survived by her brother Angelo and his wife Rosemarie; her sister Augusta Rogers; and her nieces Catherine, Dana, and Danielle, and their families.

The wake and funeral for our Sister Lucille D'Amelio will take place in St. Albert Chapel on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Visitation will be at 9:45 AM with a Prayer Service at 10:15 AM followed by the Mass of Christian Burial and Interment in the Sisters Cemetery.
