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O B I T U A R Y

**Sister Claire Pfundstein, OP**

(S. M. John Bosco)

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“When the song was raised...in praise to the Lord, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

- 2 Chronicles 5:13

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At 10:25 in the evening of September 22, 2023, our Diamond Jubilarian Claire Pfundstein, was welcomed into the arms of her Loving God. Earlier in the day as the sisters were singing the Salve for her, Claire appeared to be singing along with them. Claire was 93 years old and had served the people of God as a Sister of St. Dominic for 75 years.



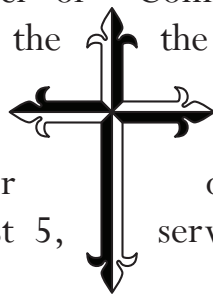
On July 28, 1930, Joseph and Magdalen Thomas Pfundstein welcomed their daughter Claire into their home in Glendale. She was greeted by her brothers Thomas, Richard, and Gerard, as well as by her sister Loretta. This close-knit, religious family belonged to Sacred Heart Parish in Glendale. Her dad was a Third Order Dominican. Claire had two aunts who were Sisters of St. Dominic—Mother Augusta and Sister Miriam Claire. Her uncle, Monsignor Adam Pfundstein, was Pastor of Notre Dame Parish in New Hyde Park for many years.

Upon graduating from Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School, Claire entered the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville on September 8, 1948, as a member of the Bleeding Heart set. She received the Dominican habit on August 4, 1949 and was given the name Sister M. John Bosco. After a year of novitiate, Sister pronounced her First Vows on August 5,

1950. Three years later on August 5, 1953, she pronounced Final Vows.

Sister received a Bachelor of Science degree from St. John’s University, Jamaica; a Master of Arts from Manhattan College, Riverdale; and a Master of Divinity from Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, New Jersey.

Sister John Bosco was an educator “par excellence”. She taught on the elementary level for 10 years at St. Patrick in Brooklyn, St. Joseph in Long Island City, and Most Holy Trinity in Brooklyn. For the next five years, she was assigned to teach mathematics at Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School in Brooklyn. Sister Claire was asked to continue her ministry in mathematics for the next five years in Puerto Rico where she taught in Santo Tomas de Aquino Colegio in San Juan, in Colegio Santa Rosa in Bayamon, and in Catholic Pontifical University of Puerto Rico in Ponce. Upon returning to New York, S. Claire assumed the role of Mathematics Department Chairperson at Dominican Commercial High School in Jamaica and later the role of Assistant Principal at St. Michael High School in Brooklyn. In 1976, Sister Claire moved into the ministry of Director of Religious Education. She served in this capacity in St. Martin of Tours/



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## Sister Claire Pfundstein, OP

Fourteen Holy Martyrs Church in Brooklyn, Our Lady of Fatima Church in Manorhaven, and in St. John Vianney Church in Queens.

After spending two years as Program Director of Samaria Prayer Center in Farmingdale, Claire was elected as Regional Superior for the sisters living in Region 4. Upon completing her term as Regional, Claire became the Personnel Director at Queen of the Rosary Motherhouse until her retirement in 2004. She made good use of her organizational and people skills in all the ministries in which she was called to serve.

Claire was looking forward to celebrating her Diamond Jubilee with her set on September 30th. One of the sisters in the set said that "Claire jumped the line and got to heaven before the rest of us." Claire loved her family and was always interested in its many activities through the years. She was a woman of deep faith and very prayerful. She especially liked praying the Office from her Dominican Praise book as well as attending daily Mass. Claire was known for her wit and keen mind. She

also enjoyed sewing, a gift she inherited from her dad who was a tailor.

Our Sister Claire will be missed by her 22 nieces and nephews, her grandnieces and grandnephews, her cousins, as well as our sisters who shared community with her through the years. Claire especially will be missed by the members of her set: Sisters Mary Erica Burkhardt, Colleen Colbert, Mary Christine Conetta, Maureen Conway, Alphonse Louise Gendron, Jeanne Puff, Maria Carmel Wirsching and Maryaline Zierle, as well as by her dear friends Margaret Sammon and Andrea Sasala.

The wake and funeral for our Sister Claire will be held in St. Albert Chapel in Amityville on Wednesday September 27, 2003. Visitation will take place at 9:45 AM. Morning Prayer will begin at 10:15 AM. The Mass of Christian Burial, presided over by her cousin Rev. George Pfundstein, will follow at 10:45 AM. Interment will be in St. Dominic Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds immediately afterwards.

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