
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Maria Carmel Wirsching, OP

Early on the morning of October 3, 2023, our Sister Maria Carmel Wirsching, OP (born Eleanor Catherine) joined St. Therese of Lisieux before the God she served for the last 75 years. As St. Therese lived her “little way,” so did Sister Carmel.

Eleanor was born on July 16, 1929. She was the second daughter of Joseph Wirsching and Frances Wieland Wirsching. Eleanor had a big sister named Anna Maria. Both of her parents were from Germany. They settled in Ridgewood, New York, and were members of Saint Pancras Parish where the girls went to elementary school. Eleanor went to Bishop Mc Donnell High School. Having Dominican Sisters in both elementary and high school, it was not surprising that Eleanor wanted to become one of them!

Eleanor entered the Novitiate on September 6, 1948, and received her habit and the name, Sister Maria Carmel on August 4, 1949. After taking first vows on August 5, 1950, she was on the road to her first mission, St. Martin School and Convent in Amityville. Maria Carmel taught in a few Brooklyn and Queens schools and served as Principal in All Saints, Brooklyn and St. Martin, Amityville. She moved to Secondary Education at Bishop Mc Donnell High School, Maria Regina High School, and Dominican Commercial High School. During the years that Sister was teaching she was also learning. She earned



“For love will conquer and will endure for all eternity. And happy are they who live and die in God’s love.” - *Blessed Franz Jägerstätter*

a Bachelor of Science at Fordham University, a Master of Arts at Middlebury College, Vermont, and a Master of Arts at St Michael College, Vermont. Sister Maria Carmel was a wonderful German language teacher. Sister also taught as an adjunct instructor at Molloy College (now University) in Rockville Centre.

In her later years she kept herself busy by volunteering at Harvest Grove in Lake Grove (a home for independent elders) and Christa House in West Babylon (a home for the dying poor). Helping the less fortunate delighted her. One of Carmel’s favorite things was her own Clown Ministry where she dressed up in her costume to entertain and cheer the audience. Her clown name was Sunshine.

She loved getting together with her good friends, Regina Rosaire and Rose Anthony for chat time!

Maria Carmel was devoted to her sister’s children, Barbara, Mary, Theresa, James, and their children. Barbara invited her to Florida when she was able to travel! Sister Maria Carmel was a kind, loving, devout Sister.

The wake and funeral for our Sister Maria Carmel Wirsching will take place in St. Albert’s Chapel on Friday, October 6, 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 St. Dominic’s Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

