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O B I T U A R Y

**Sister Sally Butler, OP**

(S. Charles Kathleen)

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Early in the afternoon on October 6, 2024, our dear Sister Sally Butler was called home to our loving God. Sally was 93 years old, and the week before her death, she had celebrated her 75th jubilee as a Sister of St. Dominic.

On March 11, 1931, Charles and Sara Bennett Butler welcomed Sally Martha into their hearts and home. Along with her sister, Carol, she was raised in Bayside, NY. A year after graduating from St. Agnes High School in College Point, NY, Sally entered the Novitiate at Amityville on September 8, 1949. On August 4, 1950, she was clothed in the Dominican habit and received her religious name, Sister Charles Kathleen. She received a Bachelor of Science degree at St. John's University, Jamaica, NY; a Master of Arts at the College of St. Rose, Albany, NY; and a Master of Social Work at Hunter College, NY.

Sally's early ministry was in elementary education at St. Frances de Chantal, Brooklyn, NY; St. Bartholomew, Elmhurst, NY; and Cure of Ars, Merrick, NY. In 1962 her ministry in secondary education began at St. Albert High School, Brooklyn and continued at Dominican Commercial High School in Jamaica, NY. Sally was an accomplished pianist and an original member of the "Guzman Girls." Another member of the group noted that "Sally didn't just play; she swayed as she played!" She also served as an organist at Cure of Ars parish.



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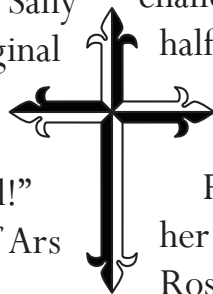
"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

- Micah 6:8

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In 1968, Father Frank Ricigliano, Pastor of St. Michael-St. Edward church in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, met with the Prioress of the Dominican Sisters, Sister Frances Maureen, and requested that three Dominican sisters minister with his three priests. He believed that the sisters would be welcome at the Fort Green Projects and saw education as the key for young people to escape drugs and poverty. Sisters Sally, Sheila Buhse, and Bernadette Lameroux volunteered for the project which began just after the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy. It was supported by a number of sisters who volunteered to teach evening classes.

A forceful and committed advocate for justice, Sally embraced issues around children and families, racial equality, and victims of all forms of abuse, especially those victims of clergy sexual abuse which led to her involvement with SNAP (Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests). She also was a founding member of Catholic Whistleblowers, a group that supports survivors of sexual abuse while challenging Church policies. Over more than half a century, she lived and ministered among the people of Fort Greene. Developing programs such as Project Teen Aid and Project Chance as well as carrying out her position as Executive Director of the Rose F. Kennedy Family Center ensured that



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the young of the neighborhood would be able to achieve their goals. She became the foster mother to the then 12 year old Carlos Cruz after his mother's death. Sally was the recipient of many awards and honors for her work among the people of Fort Greene and Bedford Stuyvesant. Throughout her years of ministry, she found her spiritual strength in the Gospels and in people like Dorothy Day.

Sally was predeceased by her parents, her sister, Carol, and her foster son, Carlos Cruz.

She is survived by her nieces and nephews, Kate Morris, Sally Morris Pardee, Daniel and David Morris, Georgine Cruz and their families, and by the members of her Dominican community. All services will be held at Queen of the Rosary Motherhouse on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 with Visitation at 9:45 AM followed by a Prayer Service at 10:30 AM. Interment will follow in St. Dominic Cemetery located on the Motherhouse grounds.