
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Mary Christine Conetta, OP

On the morning of November 6, 2024, our beloved Sister Mary Christine Conetta was welcomed into the arms of our loving God whom she had served as a Sister of St. Dominic for 76 years. She was 94 years old.

Antonio and Antonetta Socci Conetta, both immigrants from Italy, welcomed their daughter, Giacinta, into their hearts and home on December 11, 1929. One of four children, two of whom died at an early age, she and her brother, Ralph, were raised in a strong and faith-filled Italian family in St. Leo Parish, Corona, New York.

It was at Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School that Giacinta (Jean) met and was inspired by the Dominican Sisters, especially Sister Celeste Beck. On September 8, 1948, she entered the Novitiate at Amityville as a postulant. Clothed in the Dominican habit on August 4, 1949, she was given her religious name, Sister Mary Christine. She pronounced her first vows on August 5, 1950 and her final vows on August 5, 1953. She was the recipient of the Diocesan Normal School Certificate and an Associate in Arts from St. John's University, Jamaica, NY.

In 1950, her long ministry in elementary education began at Sacred Heart, East Glendale, NY and continued for the next 18 years at St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Albans and Annunciation, Brooklyn. In 1968, she was



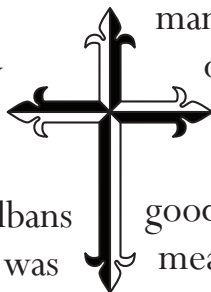
“Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.”

- *Colossians 3:12*

assigned to Notre Dame, New Hyde Park where she would remain for 50 years, first as an elementary school teacher and later as clerical worker in both the parish school and parish office. One former principal at Notre Dame remarked that Christine was known to be a very dedicated teacher. After her retirement in 2010, she became a parish volunteer. For several years, she assisted the men and women of the St. Vincent de Paul Society with their outreach. She and her long-time friend, Sister Albert, were faithful in attending wakes of the Notre Dame parishioners.

It is safe to say that most people in the New Hyde Park community knew Christine—in school, in parish life, and in the neighborhood. She became friends with a number of women in the parish. In 2018, as her health declined, she moved to Carlin Hall in the Motherhouse. Many of her parish friends kept in touch with her after her move to Amityville, sending cards and gifts.

A sister who had shared community with Christine at Annunciation, Brooklyn, noted that she was a gifted seamstress who spent many hours at the sewing machine. Among other things, she made a beautiful set of vestments for a priest friend. Another sister shared that she was also a very good cook and prepared delicious Italian meals from scratch.



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In 1983, at the time of the 750th anniversary of Holy Cross Monastery, Regensburg, Germany, Christine and Sr. Mary Albert spent hours preparing large banners for each of the 12 Dominican congregations that traced their roots to Regensburg. The banners were displayed at Most Holy Trinity Church in Brooklyn where the anniversary was celebrated.

Christine had the privilege of making several trips to Europe, especially to the family home in Italy. On one trip, she and her mother took two young nephews and visited Lourdes and Fatima before heading to Italy. This experience gave the boys a memorable taste of country life.

Her brother, Ralph, remained very faithful to Christine throughout her life and especially during her time in Carlin Hall at the Motherhouse. His wife, Vilma, is a long-time nurse's aide in Carlin Hall. Ralph recalled many childhood experiences and noted one special occasion when Christine, who was several years older than Ralph, took him on his first trip to Radio City Music Hall. They traveled on the #7 train from Corona to Manhattan. At

that time the train fare was five cents! It was an outing he fondly remembered.

Devotion to the Eucharist through daily Mass and a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin through the rosary were the hallmarks of Christine's spiritual life. We now know that she is united with her beloved Jesus and Mary in eternity.

Sister Mary Christine was predeceased by her parents, her sister, Raffaele, and her brother Anthony. She is survived by her brother, Ralph and his wife, Vilma, and by her nephews, Anthony and Ralph and their families, and by her loving sisters in the community.

Services for our dear Sister Mary Christine will take place on Tuesday, November 12 at Queen of the Rosary Motherhouse. Visitation will begin at 9:45 AM with a prayer service at 10:15 AM followed by the Mass of Christian Burial. Interment in St. Dominic Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds will take place immediately after the Mass.

*May our Sister Mary Christine rest gently
in God's arms.*
