
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Joan McDonald, OP

(S. M. Timothy Anne)

On Sunday morning, December 8, 2024, our dear Sister Joan McDonald was welcomed into eternal life by the God whom she had loved and served so well.

John and Mary (O'Rourke) McDonald welcomed their baby girl on August 7, 1928. They named their first-born child Joan, and a short time later, their daughter Mae arrived. The girls became lifelong best friends. This close-knit Irish family of four lived in St. Joseph's Parish in Kings Park, New York.

Joan attended high school at the Dominican Juniorate in Water Mill. She loved the experience as well as the friends that she made during these years. When Joan returned home during the summer months, she worked at a beach club where she was in charge of the ladies' locker room and enjoyed a swim on her lunch hour.

In September of 1946, Joan entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of St. Dominic in Amityville. A year later, Joan and the young women with whom she had entered the congregation were given the Dominican habit, the name of their "set" flower – the forget-me-not, and their religious names. Joan received the name Sister Timothy Anne.

Sister Timothy Anne was a teacher par excellence. Her time at St. Clement Pope School in South Ozone Park and at St. Elizabeth School in Ozone Park were joyful



"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

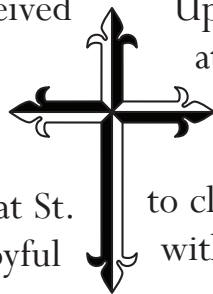
- Luke 1:45

years for both teacher and students. When Joan saw that the eighth-grade girls and boys were divided into separate classrooms, she was thrilled to have the boys. She really loved teaching them. Several of these students kept up with her through the years. Occasionally, especially around Christmas, if Joan was not at the evening meal in Bethany Convent in Jamaica, she was enjoying dinner with several of "her boys."

In addition to her full schedule of classroom teaching, Joan taught religious education classes and studied for her bachelor's degree and her master's degree, both in history and social studies, at St. John's University in Queens.

Joan taught one year at St. Agnes Academic High School in College Point and then was transferred to Collegio Santa Rosa in Puerto Rico. This was a big change for her, but she handled it with grace and poise as she did all the events in her life. Her deep spirituality, her devotion to the Blessed Mother, and her desire to do God's will enabled Joan to accept the many challenges that came her way.

Upon returning to the states, Joan taught at Dominican Commercial High School in Jamaica, Queens for almost twenty years. Her dedication was not limited to classroom lectures in social studies. Trips with students to Washington, DC, to get



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first-hand knowledge of our government helped to make the curriculum come alive.

During the summer, Joan enjoyed vacations to Cape Cod with her dear friends, Catherine Wylie and Kathleen Noftsker, as well as trips to Ireland and France with her parents. Family time with her sister, brother-in-law, and their children was important to Joan. When her oldest niece, Joan Ann, died of a brain tumor at 10 years of age, Joan's love and presence was a great support for the family.

During her years at Dominican Commercial, Joan was granted a year for family ministry to take care of her aging parents. She frequently spoke of how grateful she was to the congregation for allowing her this sacred time.

Joan was a joyful and kind local community member. She was very attentive to the needs of the senior sisters in Bethany Convent in Jamaica where she lived for many years. Even though she went to bed early, she told some of the sisters that she loved to hear the laughter of the younger sisters in the community room downstairs and that listening to the sound of laughter helped her to fall asleep happy.

In 1990 Joan began her pastoral ministry at the Motherhouse in Amityville. Her organizational skills came in very handy on the Liturgy Committee. Joan had a list of priests whom she would call to celebrate Mass when it was the chaplain's day off. When Joan could no longer drive, she moved from Jamaica to Amityville in order to continue her ministry.

She enjoyed living in Rosary Hall, and when she had to move to St. Albert's in Carlin Hall, Joan was happy to be with her good friend, Sister Margaret Althisar.

Eventually, health issues necessitated a move to the fourth floor of Carlin Hall, and once again, Joan accepted this next step on her journey in a calm and peaceful way. Her last weeks were difficult, but Joan was not. Those who went into her room were greeted with kind words and were asked how they were feeling. Last week, one of the sisters told another that she thought Joan would not make it through the night. The sister responded that Joan would not die until the Blessed Mother came for her on December 8th.

This holy, prayerful Dominican woman of God will be missed by her nieces Diane, Cathy, and Marianne, and by her nephews Bud, Chris, Tom, and Paul, as well as by their spouses and children. Joan also will be mourned by her dear friend of over sixty years, Kathleen Noftsker, the staff in the Motherhouse, particularly, the nursing staff, her friends, the associates, and the sisters of the congregation who loved her dearly.

The wake and Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Friday, December 13, 2024. Visitation will begin at 9:45 AM followed by a Prayer Service at 10:15 AM. Mass will begin immediately after the Prayer Service. Interment in St. Dominic Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds will come after the Mass.
