

**Sister Mary Rosilda Pataky, OP**

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On Sunday, December 21, 2024, the fourth Sunday of Advent, our dear Sister Rosilda Pataky was called home to God as she listened to the soft flute music of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* played by Sister Mary Anna Euring. Sister Rosilda was 99 years old and had been a Dominican sister for 80 years.

On December 5, 1925, Josephine (Sidler) and Joseph Pataky welcomed their new daughter, Dorothy Irene, into their family home in Brooklyn. Her siblings Joseph, Helen, and Len were delighted to have a baby sister. The family moved to Queens Village and became members of Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

Dorothy attended Dominican Commercial High School in Jamaica. She graduated in 1944 and entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of St. Dominic that September. She was invested on August 6th, 1945 and received her religious name, Sister Mary Rosilda. Her set became known as the White Gladiolas, and on August 6th, 1946, the group professed First Vows.

Sister Rosilda was assigned to Holy Family School in Brooklyn, followed by St. Patrick School, and then Fourteen Holy Martyrs School. The little children loved this gentle and kind teacher, yet Rosilda felt a deeper calling and transferred to Corpus Christi Monastery in the Bronx.

Ten years later, she returned to the Amityville Dominicans and ministered



“She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.”

- Proverbs 31:26

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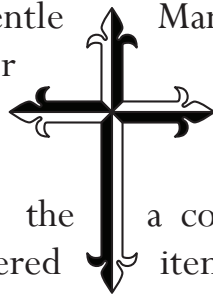
at her alma mater, Dominican Commercial. In 1990, Sister Rosilda became the school secretary at Mary’s Nativity in Flushing and enjoyed her time working with the school principal and staff.

Eight years later, our Sister Rosilda “retired” and ministered in a variety of ways. She cooked and baked at Bethany Convent where she lived and then took care of her sister Helen. When Helen had to move to a nursing home, she had daily visits from Rosilda. Rosilda was a wonderful advocate and made sure that her dear sister was well taken care of by the staff. Rosilda also made cookies as a sign of appreciation and gratitude.

This deeply prayerful woman spent a great deal of time in Bethany’s chapel praying the rosary. She remembered the intentions for which others requested that she pray and would follow up and ask how the people for whom she prayed were doing.

Rosilda enjoyed reading and watching football on TV. She understood the game because one of her nephews taught her all about it. She also enjoyed taking the bus into Manhattan and visiting various museums.

A trip to the thrift shop run by the St. Vincent de Paul Society was a treat for this bargain hunter. Rosilda was not a collector but would get needed kitchen items for the convent. One of the sisters



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who drove her there had a conversation with a woman who was on staff at the thrift shop. The woman told her that Sister Rosilda had saved her life. This poor widow wanted to end her life when her husband died, but Rosilda listened with compassion and love to her story and went back many times to visit her at the shop.

In 2013, Sister Rosilda moved to the Motherhouse in Amityville. She resided in Rosary Hall until health issues necessitated a move to Carlin Hall. Her preaching continued in the form of intercessory prayer which was so appreciated by both sisters and staff.

Our dear Sister Rosilda Pataky will be missed by her family, especially her nephews William and Don and her sister-in-law Billie. She also will be mourned by her sisters in community, the nursing staff in Carlin Hall, Barbara Farrell, NP, and her dear friend Sister Leo Francis Monaghan.

The wake and Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Monday, December 30, 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 follow after the Mass.

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