
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Patricia Lee, OP

(Sister Marie de Sales)

“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith.”

- Romans 12:6

On the morning of February 28, 2022, our beloved Sister Patricia Lee, always a sign of joy and hope, was welcomed into eternal life by the God she loved and served so well. Pat was 91 years old and had been a Sister of St. Dominic of Amityville for 74 years.



Madeline and Arthur Lee welcomed their baby daughter Patricia on June 10, 1930. She joined her older siblings Arthur, Madeline and Cassie. A few years later, baby John completed the family. They lived in Bellmore, and Pat loved to explore the woods and fields around their home. She spent hours looking and admiring the wonders of nature. After elementary school, Pat attended Queen of the Rosary Academy in Amityville where she met the Dominican sisters.

On September 8, 1947, Pat entered the Dominican Congregation of the Holy Cross in Amityville alongside 41 other young women. Several remembered her as always joyful and someone who could make the best of any situation. The following summer, Pat and the others received the Dominican habit and their “set flower”, Lily of the Valley. Pat was given the religious name Sister Marie de Sales.

After First Profession in 1949, Pat was assigned to teach in St. Pancras School in Glendale and then St. Luke School in Whitestone. She would often tell

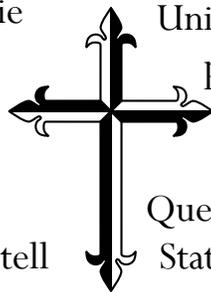
wonderful and fun-filled stories of her times with the little ones.

In 1959 Pat began a 40-year ministry in a variety of high schools. She taught in All Saints, Bishop McDonnell, St. Joseph Mountain School, Dominican Commercial and Christ the King.

Sister Margaret Schmit, also a Lily of the Valley, said that there was nothing that Pat could not teach. She was skilled in all subjects and made everything an enjoyable experience for her students.

Pat’s amazing language skills in Spanish and French and her incredible ability to bring out the best in her art students made her a favorite teacher with many of the high school girls. Dominican Associate Cammy Lubrano said, “S. Pat was the epitome of JOY. I remember her smile well, as did all the girls in All Saints High School”. In addition to classroom teaching, Pat often stayed after school helping students in a variety of ways including painting scenery for various school plays.

Sister Pat Lee was an educator at heart. After receiving degrees from St. John’s University and Villanova University, she pursued another passion a few years later and became a student once again. She registered for evening art classes at Queens College and received her New York State certification.



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In 1990, she moved into an old Victorian house in Richmond Hill with her good friend, Sister Marie Hegarty. There, Pat set up a small studio on the third floor. She said that this work space was truly heaven, and she often stayed up until the early hours of the morning perfecting many different forms and techniques.

Pat was a long-time and loyal member of the Dominican Institute of the Arts (DIA). Before her health became an issue, Pat attended every DIA gathering. She served on the Planning Commission and led drawing and watercolor workshops at many of them. In 2009, Pat was the recipient of the DIA Spirit Recognition Award which is presented to a member who has rendered significant service to DIA in the spirit of its mission.

Our multi-talented sister created the beautiful tapestry of Catherine of Siena that hung on the staircase wall at Villa Maria convent in Water Mill. She also had input into the window cross that is behind the main altar in St. Albert Chapel in Amityville.

During her first term as Prioress, Sister Mary Hughes invited Pat to help create a reflection garden on the Motherhouse grounds. Together, they selected a beautiful statue of St. Dominic and worked with landscapers and others so that our history could readily be seen by those walking the circular path around Dominic. All were very impressed with Pat's creative genius which

now provides a lovely space for quiet and contemplation.

So much more could be said about this incredible woman who made us laugh with her poems and songs, who inspired us with her dedication and passion and who preached to us by her example as she accepted the pain and limitations that her diminished health placed on her. Pat's constant mantra was: "God is good, God is so good". Her only "complaint" was that she was no longer able to bake her delicious, crispy chocolate chip cookies to share with all of us!

Pat was predeceased by her parents as well as her siblings Arthur, Cassie and John. She will be missed by her sister Madeline and many nieces and nephews especially her nieces Melissa and Fran who spent many hours at her bedside while she was dying. She will also be mourned by all the Sisters of St. Dominic and her many friends particularly Michael Schimmenti and his family.

The wake and funeral for our dear Sister Pat Lee will be held in St. Albert Chapel in Amityville on Thursday, March 3, 2022. Visitation will be at 9:45 a.m. and a prayer service will be held at 10:15 a.m. followed by the Mass of Christian burial. Interment will follow in the Sisters Cemetery.

We can still enjoy Pat's creativity. To watch her rap her own obituary poem, go to this link: bit.ly/PatLeeObit.
