



SR. DOMINIC MARIE TAMBURELLO

March 8, 1923 - April 2, 2011

In May of 1946, inspired by the spirit and work of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Divine Child, Concetta Tamburello entered their congregation. In doing this, she willingly accepted the Rule of Life for the Third Order Regular of St. Francis. This Rule provides a structure for our lives and a manner for being faithful to the Gospels and to mature in our Baptismal commitment according to the Franciscan way.

Concetta, who later received the religious name of Dominic Marie, was deeply imbued with the Franciscan spirit. In the midst of her various ministerial responsibilities and her family and community commitments, she valued her time of prayer. Solitude was a graced time for her to spend with her Spouse and she truly “bore Him in her heart” and “gave birth to Him through a holy life” as Francis exhorted us. She went about her day quietly and prayerfully. We can all attest to that and she was not only an example to us, but an inspiration for us to deepen our own prayer life.

Although Sister Dominic Marie was known for her accommodating and compliant nature, she was not afraid to take risks. She was the first sister to dye her hair when we emerged in modified habits. In mid-life she learned to swim, but a most admirable risk was to take high school students to Europe for Spring break. She willingly accepted the role of principal of a new school in Brooklyn and attacked it with the same zeal that accompanied all of her ministries.

Even after retirement, she worked in the activities department of St. Francis Home. The Director said that she always showed her love and devotion to the residents and they loved her in return. She said, “Nothing was too much for her as she transported the wheel chair residents, sang and made them laugh with her cheerful, gentle ways”.

Bonaventure, a great Franciscan theologian wrote that, “When you pray gather up your whole self, enter with your Beloved into the chamber of your heart and there remain alone with Him.” Sister Dominic Marie has done this and now she has been gathered up by her Beloved.

Dominic Marie, thank you for your love and your example. Be at peace now in God’s love.