



Sister was transferred to St. Joseph's Novitiate in Round Top where she served as Novice Mistress. Sister returned to St. Pius V School in the fall of 1995, where she primarily taught the New York State Regents courses. She also taught 7th and 8th grade math, calculus, government and economics. Sister was appointed Local Superior of the Sisters on Long Island in 2000 and Principal in 2003. In 2007, Sister returned to St. Joseph's Novitiate to be the Directress of Sisters' Studies and Superior of the Sister's Juniorate.

Sister celebrated her Silver Jubilee of Profession in 2015. During all her religious life, Sister was lovingly devoted to the Congregation. As a member of the General Council for eighteen years, she provided wise advice and

assisted in governing the Congregation. Her balanced judgment, discretion, prudence and experience were invaluable in the organization and operation of our convents and schools, our Novitiate and Juniorate.

Sister's Illness and Death

During the four years of her illness, Sister Maria Dolorosa underwent a number of treatments and surgeries in New York. Throughout this time, Sister was blessed to receive the Sacraments from Bishop Santay, Fr. Baumberger, and the priests of the Congregation of St. Pius V. In November of this year, Sister was told that the treatments were no longer effective and that she had only a short time to live. She accepted this with her characteristic resignation to God's Will, saying, "This is God's Will; it's all in His hands."

During her last weeks, Sister was very much at peace. She told me, "I look at everything that's happened to me in my life. Everything has gone according to God's plan. . . . I don't know why I have ever worried about anything." Sister looked upon her illness as an honor and stated that she didn't feel worthy to follow in the footsteps of Sister Mary Cecilia, our young Sister who carried the cross of leukemia and passed away three years ago.

On the morning of December 7, 2016, Sister Maria Dolorosa passed into eternity. Her parents, family and the Sisters were present as she took her last breaths. Throughout the five days and nights before the burial, the Sisters kept vigil before her casket. They prayed the Rosary every hour for the repose of her soul. Bishop Santay offered her Requiem High Mass on December 12, and Bishop Kelly preached the sermon. Sister was buried beside Sister Mary Cecilia in the cemetery on our Motherhouse grounds.

Sister's Example

I had the great blessing of living at the same convent and working with Sister for many years. Both her example and her counsel were a tremendous assistance to me. Over these last few years while Sister was ill and I was traveling, she frequently wrote to me. Her words reveal her many virtues.

She expressed a great resignation to God's Will amidst many sufferings. "God has a plan with all of this [her cancer]. Blessed be His Will." Another time she wrote, "I have to remember Our Lord is in the driver's seat. I have to take one day at a time, going along for the ride." After receiving a report on her cancer count, she said, "I have to admit I was a bit shocked today to see that number. Thank goodness Our Lord knows what He's doing."

