



Remembering

Pat McCarthy, CSJ

April 7, 1935 – October 4, 2018

Sister Patricia McCarthy was born in Parma, Ohio on April 7, 1935, the second of six children born to Joseph Patrick McCarthy and Stella O'Reilly McCarthy.

Growing up in a fun-filled and very happy Catholic family with three brothers, Joe, Jim, and Tom, and two sisters, Eileen and Mary, Pat learned early the endearing traits that characterized her life and gifts.

In the McCarthy home music, laughter and love were daily staples; all sang, some played instruments. Together they created their own orchestra, Pat's specialty was the guitar.

Her education introduced her to the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Mary's Academy on Slouson Avenue. While there she excelled in basketball and volleyball as well as being an enthusiastic and excellent student.

After graduating from St. Mary's she entered the CSJ community in 1953 and made her final profession in 1961. In an article published in Designs, Pat's personality was described in these words: "Threads that created the fabric and color of her life as a CSJ are bright, vivid, a little crooked and oh, so warm!"

Pat earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry because she wanted to learn "the ultimate secret of life in the Universe." She later acknowledged that it took her many years to realize that the secrets were not to be found in chemistry, but in music, art, and prayer.

God blessed Pat with many talents, not only in music, but also in art, cooking, hospitality, and very especially, kindness. The use of these talents led her down many avenues and touched

many lives in the ministry of education. Most of her 52 years of ministry were spent in elementary education, where she was an "out of the box" teacher who had as her motivation to teach students to love life and not to be afraid to color "outside the lines." In those days she taught not only the traditional subjects but also, camping, silk-screen printing and even rock climbing.

A master crossword puzzle worker and Jeopardy fan, she was first and foremost an avid reader and a well-known and frequent visitor to the El Segundo library.

As she ended her ministry as elementary teacher, she continued for five more years as full-time teacher of art and religion at St. Mary's Academy, her high school alma mater. There she found countless outlets for her many skills, such as drama, counselling, and choral performances.

Upon leaving St. Mary's as a full-time teacher, she regularly returned to help in the library or to substitute teach. As time went on she began to teach painting to our senior sisters at Carondelet Center. Ever the encourager, she relished the opportunity and faithfully prepared for her classes, gathering material to make the experience both fun and interesting. Many of our senior sisters were happy and thrilled to have their art framed and shared with others. Pat taught students and adults alike to love life and not to be afraid to embrace a new adventure.

Sister Pat McCarthy added a unique and special flavor to our CSJ life!

Now she is reunited with her beloved parents, Stella and Joe, her brothers, Jim and Tom, and many CSJ's. May God bless us all with a share of her spirit of kindness, humor and inclusivity. May her dear soul rest in peace. ☞

~ Written by Sister Kathleen Mary McCarthy, CSJ and Sister Frances Baker, CSJ

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A Sister of St Joseph of Carondelet
for 64 years

*Blessed are the works of your hands
Blessed are the hands that have
touched life with love,
nurtured creativity,
graced us with music and art,
prepared delicious meals,
embraced with compassion,
reached out to those in need,
mentored and educated youth.
Blessed are the works of your hands.*

~ Found on Sister Pat's mother's memorial card

