



Sister Patricia Overlock, CSJ

February 8, 1926 - December 19, 2023

Patricia Anne Overlock was born in Tucson, Arizona. Her father, Alton Overlock was born in Tombstone, Arizona, and died before her first birthday. Pat's mother, Lillian Rohrer, was born in Hancock, Michigan. After his death, Mrs. Overlock moved Pat and Pat's grandmother to Los Angeles. There Mrs. Overlock continued her teaching career at an elementary school.

From grades K – 6 Pat attended Angeles Mesa School. She received her religious education at St. Brigid's School on Sundays, after the 8:00 mass. Faithfully, every week, her mother would drill Pat on her catechism lesson. Pat remarked, "This was very important to me." Pat recalled that Sr. Margaret Clare Borchard was her first Communion teacher and the first CSJ she ever met. When six years old Pat started to take piano lessons. A big change came into Pat's life at age twelve, when Mrs. Overlock remarried. Pat gained a wonderful stepfather, G. Lawrence Ott, two step brothers, Lawrence and John, and a lifelong friend in her stepsister, Mary Alice. Her new stepdad, Lawrence Ott, was the architect for Carondelet Center's first building and chapel, and also the Mount Chapel, the Coe Library and students' Carondelet Residence Hall, and many schools, convents, and hospitals in the Los Angeles Diocese.

Shortly after they married and moved into a new house that Mr. Ott designed in the Los Angeles area, Pat became seriously ill and spent three months in Queen of Angles Hospital. She said, "It was during this illness that I began to think about a religious vocation." The Franciscan Sisters at the hospital impressed Pat. After a long period of recuperation, Patricia began her Catholic school education in the 7th grade transferring to Transfiguration. Carondelet Sisters she found especially memorable from high school were Sister Celine and Sister Hortensia. After finishing 8th grade, Pat attended St. Mary's Academy, and graduated in 1944. She recalled, "I loved my years at SMA and was involved in sports, especially basketball and volleyball, and was elected GAA President. As a junior, I began taking pipe organ lessons, along with continuing piano and violin lessons. All during high school my desire to become a CSJ deepened." However, her desire would have to wait, because her mother was not too happy with the idea.

On a music scholarship, Pat traveled to Washington, DC to attend Dunbarton College, (no longer in existence), conducted by the Holy Cross Sisters. Pat came to know and love this community. At Dunbarton, Pat was elected to the Student Council, and continued to enjoy ice skating, horseback riding, and swimming. In the summer of 1945 Pat returned to Los Angeles and registered at MSMC where she continued her musical endeavors. At the age of 21, in February of 1947, she said, "I just told my mother I had waited long

enough and so I entered the postulate. I was influenced by the CSJ's happiness, and especially several sisters who became my good friends, and always had time to talk."

Pat entered on February 11, 1947. On August 15, 1949, she received the habit and was given the religious name of Sister Lillian Marie, to honor her mother. She pronounced first vows as on August 15, 1949, and made her final profession on August 15, 1952. Pat celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1997, and her 75th Jubilee in 2022.

Pat was awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Music in 1949 from the Mount, and a Master's Degree, also from the Mount, in 1954. She also studied Spanish at the Mount, and in 1969 received her California Standard Secondary School Lifetime Credential. She attended Oxford University in England for further studies. Her background in music is impressive, and she greatly enhanced daily liturgies at Carondelet Center.

For the first thirty years of her religious life, her ministry included teaching piano, organ, violin, choral and Spanish in our California and Tucson high schools, and summer classes at the Mount. About twenty of these years were spent assisting in our boarding schools in San Diego, Tucson, and St. Mary's Academy in Los Angeles.

After six serious back surgeries over a period of ten years, Pat left teaching and took CPE training that enabled her to work in pastoral ministry in our hospitals. She found this ministry rewarding and challenging. When pastoral ministry became too demanding, she volunteered for office work at St. Mary's Academy in 1990. This new ministry required her to become somewhat familiar with computers. In 1996 Pat began working as a volunteer at Daniel Freeman Hospital doing office work. After a serious shoulder and arm injury, and physical rehabilitation at Carondelet Center, she joined the Holy Family Community on November 2, 2004. Pat continued to offer help with answering phones and playing the organ at liturgies as her energy allowed. On August 10, 2022 Sister transferred to St. John of God Center. While preferring not to leave Carondelet Center, she soon became comfortable and adjusted to her new setting.

Kindly and tranquil by nature, Pat was soft-spoken and courteous. She could give her opinion frankly, but not dictate how you should live or think. She enjoyed activities such as crocheting, watching sports and nature programs on tv, reading. Pat was adaptable to life and the many changes it presented in her 90 plus years. She will be missed for her willingness to be a part of Community, to contribute and to bring her own special brand of joy and humor. Never aloof or too academic, she was just one of the crowd, but most of all enjoyed her quiet and solitude.

One especially notable quality of Pat's was her spiritual resilience. This quality found roots in her sense of spirituality and prayerfulness, her beliefs, and her outlook on life. At age 12 her experience of serious illness brought her closer to God and to her new family. Her multiple back surgeries enhanced her trust in God's healing concern. Her spiritual resilience developed an ability to navigate through, or recover from, life's most challenging moments and then to minister to others from her experience. It provided opportunities for Pat to gain, maintain and even revise her sense of purpose and meaning in her life and goals. She responded well to the invitation that illness provided for spiritual growth and maturation.

Her strong will and determination helped her overcome many obstacles to remain at Carondelet Center. As she grew weaker, she followed God's invitation to move on to St. John of God Center on August 10, 2022.

There she enjoyed light reading and interacting with the sisters in residence. She always expressed gratitude for even the smallest deeds. Vaya con Dios, dear Pat, you will be missed.

~ Sister Frances Baker, CSJ