



Sister Mary Ann of Jesus, O.C.D.
(Antoinette Elizabeth Sophie Marie Pick)

Came from God: September 27, 1916

Entered Carmel: August 15, 1940

Received the Habit: March 6, 1941

Final Profession & Veiling: March 7, 1945

Home with God: November 15, 2013- Year of Faith

*“What a joy to think that
in Heaven we shall be reunited.”*

St. Therese

Sister Mary Ann of Jesus, Antoinette Elizabeth Sophie Marie Pick, was born on September 27, 1916 in Dordrecht, Holland.

She was the third child in a family of 4 children: Paula was her older sister, and then followed her brother Louis, or “Lou”, Antoinette, or “Tony” as her friends called her and then her younger sister, Victoria or “Vicky”.

Her father, Victor Joseph, was sent to the United States to open up a branch office for an international margarine manufacturing company in New York. Her mother, Sophie Marie Vancken, along with her father, was a great influence in her spiritual life.

Antoinette was baptized the day she was born. In February of 1918, her family came to the United States and entered through Hoboken, New York, settling in Buffalo. There were many ocean liner trips in her early years made across the Atlantic to Holland to visit family. These trips formed lasting ties with her grandparents, numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. But eventually the family moved from Europe and settled permanently in Dallas, Texas, in October of 1928. She received her citizenship through her father’s naturalization on June 14, 1934 in Dallas, Texas.

“Tony” spent her grammar school years in Buffalo, New York. As a teenager, her father’s business took the family to Dallas, Texas. She went to a high school run by the Ursuline Nuns and then went to Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio. She kept contact with these schools throughout her life. After college she worked for Neiman-Marcus as a stock girl. Even though she didn’t work there long, because the family moved to California, she had many stories to tell of her time as a stock girl. In California, Antoinette worked at Bullock’s Wilshire selling clothes and “loving it”.

“Ever since I was a very small child, I was drawn to the idea of becoming a nun, but all the nuns I knew were teachers and I definitely did not want to teach. My idea of being a nun

was to walk in a garden and live a peaceful life devoted to prayer. When I was in the fourth grade, my mother gave me a copy of 'The Story of a Soul'. From that time on, I knew that if I ever did become a nun, it would be the Carmelites. This desire stayed in the back of my mind and never quite left me even though I became a little sidetracked during my teens and early twenties."

In 1939 Antoinette started visiting the Carmelite Monastery in Alhambra, California, on a regular basis. She was twenty-three when she finally made the decision and entered on August 15, 1940. "It has been a wonderful life and I've never regretted it, not even for a moment." She received the Habit on March 6, 1941 and received her religious name, Sister Mary Ann of Jesus. Her Final Profession was on March 7, 1945.

Before entering Carmel, Sister Mary Ann attended ballet school in Los Angeles under a famous Russian-born teacher, Theodore Kosloff; she also played the violin and "was sent to the garage to practice", and had a natural talent for art, receiving years of training. Her Dutch heritage was always a distinctive characteristic of hers: she was so organized and neat! After her Golden Jubilee, Sister went through everything she owned and gave it all away, keeping only her rosary and a small Bible.

Through her years in Carmel, Sister Mary Ann was Sub Prioress, Novice Mistress, Infirmarian and Sacristan. She never left this office of Sacristan until she could no longer walk. She held it for almost 50 years. She said, "I think I have the best job of all." We still have many of the beautiful linens with the embroidered crosses on them that she made. Whenever we worked on Feast Days or Jubilees, Sister was always able to visualize these projects and plan them in their entirety. We are still reprinting the cards she designed. Any embroidery or knitting project that she worked on was always done to "perfection".

Sister developed a green thumb for growing things, starting with orchids that she grew on our sun porch. She eventually had a little garden outside and loved working with cactus. Each morning was spent gardening. You could see her bent over, pulling out weeds or leaves from her pots.

Throughout her life, Sister Mary Ann was in good health, even though she had a whole bowl of candies each afternoon. In December of 2008, she went to the hospital and was diagnosed with “end stage of renal disease”. She came home to die and was put on hospice. She was of such strong constitution, that she recovered and we had to dismiss hospice; this happened three times until she died.

Sister Mary Ann amazed us all; especially the nurses who cared for her for 4 years as she was confined to bed. She never developed bed sores even though she wanted to lie only on her back. Each day she had a routine of prayer, reading and watching her sports, especially her beloved Dodgers. The Sisters would visit her each week and only some months before she died, she wanted us only to sing to her when we came as a group. It was beautiful to watch her after we sang; she was so grateful and raised her arms in joy!!! She always expressed her gratitude and great love for her Sisters in Carmel with a big smile! “I love my Sisters!”

On Sunday, November 10, Sister became unresponsive after eating her breakfast; two weeks before we had noticed a change in her also. The nurses said that she had had a slight stroke. The Sisters were called as we were expecting the end to be near. But like she had done so many times before, she recovered. The nurses were always very attentive to her and the Sisters came to visit her often during these next days. One of our Carmelite Fathers, Father Albert, anointed her each day after her stroke.

On the Feast of All Carmelite Saints, November 14, around 1:30 in the afternoon Sister Mary Ann’s pulse disappeared. The Sisters were with her the whole after-

noon and evening. Three of our Carmelite Fathers came to anoint her around 2:00. What a special grace for her, as she always loved the Eucharist and priests! (Her brother Louis was a diocesan priest for Los Angeles and had preceded her in death on February 5, 1969.) But her heart was still beating! Around 12:15 in the morning, the Feast of all Carmelite Souls, Friday, the Sisters were alerted that she was slipping away. We arrived in time to see her take her last breath. She died so peacefully, with no struggle, leaving great peace behind to all of us too.

One of the Sisters jotted down some of the little advices she gave to her: “Live the Carmelite life. Give good examples to the Sisters. Be a good Sister by living in your community as if it was your family. Be patient. Keep close to Our Lord all the time and don’t get carried away with things that are going on. The main thing is to be united with Our Lord.”

Sister’s Funeral Mass was held at 10:00 on the morning of Wednesday, November 20. The viewing for the people was held before the Mass along with the rosary, led by Father Bernard Perkins, O.C.D. Father Philip Sullivan, O.C.D., pastor of St. Thérèse’s parish was the main concelebrant and homilist. Father Albert Bunsic, O.C.D., Father Bernard Perkins, O.C.D., Father David Guzman, O.C.D., from St. Thérèse’s Parish came and two from El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands, Father Mark Kissner, O.C.D., and Brother Jason Parrott, O.C.D. Cabot & Sons, Pasadena, had 2 limousines ready for the Sisters to go to Calvary Cemetery after the Funeral Mass.

Sister Mary Ann had lived 74 years in Carmel. She died in the Year of Faith and the 100th Jubilee of our Foundation in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She was the last remaining member of her family living: Her mother died in 1941 or ’42; her father, Victor, died in June of 1970; her sister, Vicky, on May 23, 1987; and her sister, Paula, on November 5, 1991.



*"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart."*

Mt. 11:29

*The quote above was given to Sr. Mary Ann
when she entered Carmel in 1940.*



*Carmel of St. Teresa
Alhambra- CA.*