**Reflections Sr. Pat Bussman**

Today we celebrate the life of Sr. Pat Bussman—a prayerful woman, dedicated in her ministry, loyal to her family, community, and friends!

Pat was born in San Francisco to her parents, Joseph and Anna-Marie, on

March 30, 1933. *Really, I should say* she was born a *LADY* in San Francisco! But you all know that! She was the oldest girl followed by her sister Joan. Throughout the years, Pat and Joan had a very close relationship. It was a shock and a great sadness when Joan died so suddenly. Pat was also very proud of her niece Stephanie and relished being with her and following her career! Our prayers are with you, Stephanie, as you experience this loss.

Her elementary school years were happily spent in the Richmond District at St. Monica’s School where she met the Holy Names Sisters and was greatly influenced by them through the years. During this time she also made lifelong friends: Noel Girard and Gail Carroll Hehir. The Girards and Bussmans were good friends, and so Pat and Noel enjoyed many good times together. Gail Hehir and Pat met in the third grade and that friendship continued until now.

After St. Monica’s, Pat continued her education at Presentation High School and Holy Names College.

Pat entered the Holy Names Sisters in 1952 and joined many other young women. This was one of the largest groups to enter at Los Gatos. As a novice, she received the name, Sr. Mary Annunciata (better known as Nuncie)! During her ministry years, Pat served as teacher, dean, principal, and secondary school supervisor for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She finished her active ministry at Damien High School, an all boys high school in Laverne as a math teacher and counselor. She also made sure she taught the boys how to be gentlemen!

Having lived many years in large communities, Pat enjoyed being in a small community of 4 Sisters at Bethany, in South Pasadena. While there, she frequented the local library as she was an avid reader of many genres. A new experience was being the gardener in residence, especially tending the roses in the backyard. Pat set a beautiful table, but when it came to cooking she had only two specialties: spaghetti and raviolis, and, of course, with a glass of red wine.

Pat had many interests! While living in Oakland, she became an usher at the SF Symphony and Opera so she could attend all performances for free. You couldn’t keep her away from her beloved San Francisco! She also liked to relax and enjoyed trips with friends to Tahoe, Sedona, and Hawaii. Of course she always had a book in her hand! Shopping was another favorite of hers! It has been said that while most people were watching the football games on New Years Day, Pat and some friends (I wonder who they were?) were hitting the May Company sales from Arcadia to Santa Monica and back! And then there were the trips to return most everything!

Pat faced numerous challenges. She was principal at Ramona during the devastating earthquake that severely damaged the school. It was a trying time for her, but with her strong will and persevering spirit she was able to deal with the daily problems. Following her active ministry, Pat moved to Los Gatos, Merrill Gardens, and Mercy Retirement and Care Center. These were difficult times and called for major adjustments. In her final days, Pat was very loving and appreciative of all the care she was receiving!

Pat told us many times that she would pray every night, “Jesus, please take me!” Pat, your prayer has been answered. May you rest in peace!