

OBITUARY

Sister John Marie Samaha, 84 years old, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family for 64 years, died at the Motherhouse in Fremont on August 1, 2007. Sister was the beloved daughter of the late John and Anna Samaha.

Sister John Marie is survived by two sisters, Sister John Dominic Samaha of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose; Mildred Samaha of San Francisco; and Brother John Samaha, SM of Cupertino.

Sister John Marie was born in San Francisco, California on March 6, 1923 and entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family on July 2, 1943. Sister ministered as a Religious Educator in parishes throughout California and for many years served as Pastoral Associate at St. Joseph Parish, Fremont.

Sister John Marie was a legendary figure throughout the Bay Area having been widely known for her parish ministry with Sister John Marie's Pantry, papal award "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" in recognition of extraordinary service to the universal church, involvement with the Tri-City Homeless Coalition and as Chaplain with the Fremont Fire Department, to name a few. Over the years, Sister John Marie was the recipient of numerous awards in honor of her extraordinary service to the community and to the church.

There will be a public viewing on Monday, August 6, 2007 at the Motherhouse Chapel, 159 Washington, Blvd., Fremont, California from 4 to 9 p.m.

A Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated at St. Joseph's in Fremont, California, on Tuesday, August 7, 2007 at 11 a.m. followed by a reception at the Best House on the property of the Motherhouse, 159 Washington Blvd., Fremont. Interment will take place at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, California.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Sisters of the Holy Family Mission Fund, P.O. Box 3248, Fremont, CA 94539 or to Sister John Marie's Pantry, c/o St. Joseph Parish, P.O. Box 3276, Fremont, CA 94539.

Further information regarding Sister John Marie may be found on the Sisters' Web Site www.holyfamilysisters.org.

Newspapers:

The Argus
San Jose Mercury News
San Francisco Chronicle
Catholic Voice
San Francisco Catholic