



Catherine Emma Frustere

January 13, 1933 - April 9, 2022

CATHERINE EMMA FRUSTERE

It is a fine line to walk between down-to-earth humor and dignified discretion, but Catherine Frustere danced that line with ease. She lived somewhere between finely tailored suits during the work week and denim pants and an apron on the weekend. Her ability to remind her bosses of upcoming family birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations was the legendary mark of a professional who protected the dignity of her boss at work and tactfully reminded them of obligations at home. She was sometimes asked to make the appropriate personal gift purchases to celebrate those events, and she did so happily. She was the “concierge of executive assistants”. She began as an executive secretary for James Dominic Jordano at the age of 17, to cover for her sister, Norma, during Norma’s first pregnancy. She did not stop working until she was 79 years-old, ending her career at Sansum Clinic. Catherine was born at St. Francis Hospital in 1933. She was a later-in-life surprise for her

mother and father, Madeline and Candido Caudera, and joined with her adoring older siblings,

Charles and Norma. She first married Clyde Hendricks in 1961 and was divorced in 1978.

After the divorce, she reconnected with one of her earliest suitors and subsequently married

Henry Frustere in 1981 to the delight of her family. The most important things to Catherine

were family, birthday parties, sneaking treats to dogs and cats, baking treats for her personal

physicians and dentists and for her co-workers, and eating dark chocolate. We remember her

punctuality in sending notes of congratulations, birthday cards, and presents, and remember

her admonition to cash the check as soon as you get it so her checkbook reconciliation would

not be missing an entry! Her steps were quick, her mind was quicker, and she did not suffer

fools gladly.

She was a devoted member of the Old Mission Parish and had a particular fondness for the

Monastery of the Poor Clares. Her baked goods and donations often arrived on their doorstep,

and her frequent letters were a comforting source of contact for the cloistered sisters.

She requested no services and the family asks you to remember her when you write a note to

cheer another, bake a tray of yummy cookies, savor a dark chocolate candy, or cash a gift

check in a timely manner! Also, you may honor her memory with a donation to the Santa

Barbara Humane Society, the Monastery of the Poor Clares of Santa Barbara,
or the
Ridley-Tree Cancer Center.

Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album SBMFC 1995



Edwin Loh - June 22, 2025 at 08:58 AM

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“ My deep condolences to Catherine’s family and friends for their loss. Please also accept my sincere apology of this belated message since I have no clue of Catherine’s passing in 2022.

When I began my work at the Financial Service Department of SBMFC in 1990, Catherine opened her arms with warmth and welcomed me into her domain. 7 years later when I started my job at

the Finance Department of Cottage Health System (SBCH), she made frequent stops to the Knapp Building as part of her regular mid-morning “liaison” trips since she knew most people worked at Joan Bricher’s

Department anyway. We kept in touch regularly throughout the years of her daily life like her reluctant retirement and her grieving of Hank’s passing but suddenly in 2019 she did not respond to my email.

Catherine is a precious treasure for the Administration of the “Clinic” (now Sansum), her cheerful personality

provides such joyfulness to everyone who is not only working at Financial Services but the entire office building

at Patterson Avenue. We always have anticipation every day of what she will bring her signature baked goodies

to the office. Will it be cupcakes or fudges or pies or cookies? One year on Halloween Day, she dressed as

a Pillsbury doughboy, as she is happy to watch us swarming over her sweet goodies brought her satisfaction.

Catherine will be missed dearly; may her soul rest in peace.

Edwin Loh (or as she always called me – Mr. Ed), former accountant SBMFC

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Edwin Loh - June 22, 2025 at 08:56 AM