

SISTER BIAGINA IZZO (December 29, 1901 December 15, 1989)

Sr. Biagina was born in Marano, Naples, Italy of Ernest and Veroncia Izzo on December 29, 1901 and christened Julia.

She entered the Congregation on August 2, 1926 and received the Baptistine habit on February 2, 1927.

Shortly after professing first vows on February 3, 1928, Sister Biagina's first assignment was in the United States where she arrived on August 13, 1928.

Upon her arrival, she was assigned to Our Lady of Loreto Nursery in Manhatttan where she performed various household duties and assisted with the little children. Her gentleness and solicitude for the children earned for her the position of assistant directress of the orphans at Gladstone, New Jersey and later at St. Lucy's in Newark, New Jersey.

The financial needs of the Congregation during this time were great and Sister Biagina in 1930 obediently accepted the humble duties of soliciting for the needs of Our Lady of Loreto in Manhattan and in 1932 at St. John Villa Academy in Staten Island where she served in this capacity for thirteen years.

In July of 1945 Sister was transferred to Mt. Carmel parish in Brooklyn where she served the parish by taking the census of its population. This completed; she returned to St. John Villa Academy, Staten Island to continue her duties. In August of 1948, Sister Biagina was transferred to Mt. St. John Convent, Purchase, New York from where she daily commuted to Manhattan to solicit for the needs of the community and the mission. Here she remained until March 30, 1983 when she had a stroke and was sent to St. Agnes Hospital in White Plains. Because she required special assistance, at the end of her hospital stay, on May 16, 1983, she was transferred to Providence Rest, Bronx, New York the Congregation's nursing home. She remained there until December 15, 1989 when she answered the final call of her divine Spouse and Maker.

Sister Biagina was loved by all, not only the Sisters in the Convent but also by all with whom she came in contact with. Her smile, quiet demeanor, kindness and spirituality won for her many friends and admirers.

Many sought her advice in their everyday and even family difficulties. They consulted her in matters of marriage, religion etc. even while she was at the Home. One young girl visited her there with her fiance to seek her approval of her choice.

Many missed her after her illness pouring phone calls, flowers, prayers and visitng her.

She will long be remembered for her prayerful and spiritual life, community observance and especially for her beautiful singing voice. She loved to sing and entertain the Sisters with both spiritual and Neopolitan songs. Therefore, at many a community gathering and on special occasions and celebrations, Sister Biagina would be asked to sing. This brought pleasure both to her and to the audience.

Sometimes her singing was recorded, and later used on various occasions as was the one that was played at her funeral Mass which brought tears to all present. May God rest her beautiful soul.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE!