



Sisters of St. John the Baptist

Provincial Residence

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SR. MARY MAGDALEN BRANCALE, C.S.JB.

April 18, 1909 – February 26, 2006

Sr. Mary Magdalen Brancale was born on April 18, 1909 in Paolo de Colle (Bari), Italy, to Leonardo Brancale and Anna Dacchille.

On October 27, 1940, Sister entered the Congregation of Sisters of St. John the Baptist, at St. John Villa, Staten Island. On September 8, 1942, she made her first profession of vows and was immediately assigned as Mistress of the Boarders at St. John Villa Academy. On September 8, 1947, Sr. Mary Magdalen made her perpetual profession and continued her ministry of dedicated service to the children of St. John Villa Academy.

After 15 years of loving commitment to the Villa community, on the feast of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 1957, God called Sr. Mary Magdalen to St. Joseph Villa, in Peapack, New Jersey. It was here that Sister would commence her beautiful 38 year ministry in retreat work with adults and high school students and, at a later time, to the work of hospitality to the women residents of the Villa, until her retirement to Mt. St. John Convent, Purchase, in October 1995.

As we remember Sr. Mary Magdalen, we will always recall a religious woman whose love and dedication to God was reflected so tirelessly through her wholehearted love and dedication to His work in her Baptistine Community and to the people of God whom she served. During the course of her 64 years as a Sister of St. John the Baptist, Sr. Mary Magdalen responded to the Lord's call in her life in a spirit of gracious generosity and uncompromising love. Her life of prayer, her love of Community, and her zeal in doing God's work on earth were the motivating forces behind everything Sister did.

On November 29, 2005 it was necessary that Sister be transferred to Providence Rest Nursing Home for greater care. On February 26, 2006 Sr. Mary Magdalen responded to the Lord's call for the last time in her journey of faith and entered into the peace and joy of eternal life. Her life exemplified so beautifully the words of our Blessed Father Founder:

"Let us love God and be always ready to sacrifice ourselves for Him."