

Sr. Mary Pietrina Lucchese

January 1, 1920 - April 5, 1990

Born Margarita Lucchese, of Frances Loscialpo and Angelo Lucchese on January 1, 1920, in Pulsano, Italy, Sr. Pietrina entered a religious congregation known as the Religious Daughters of S. Maria located in Italy. As a postulant, Sr. Pietrina immigrated to the U.S. on May 20, 1949. In 1951 Sister professed her vows in that community but early in 1953, requested an indult of secularization. On July 21, 1953 Sr. Pietrina entered the Sisters of St. John the Baptist in Glen Cove. On March 21, 1955, Sr. Pietrina professed her first vows.

With much enthusiasm and dedication Sr. Pietrina began her cooking apostolate in Gladstone in 1955. She was then assigned to St. John Villa Academy to work in the laundry from 1956 to 1959. From the years 1959 to 1978, Sr. Pietrina continued her cooking apostolate at Mt. St. John Convent, White Plains, St. John Villa Academy, Staten Island, Immaculate Heart Novitiate, Glen Cove, and Alphonsus Manor, Cairo. In 1978 Sister transferred to Toronto, Canada where she not only continued her cooking ministry, but extended her service to the nearby parish in ministering to the Italian speaking people.

While in Toronto, in the year 1987 Sister was diagnosed as has having cancer. Because of her increasingly poor health Sister was transferred to Mt. St. John Convent on May 21, 1989. Sister regained her strength considerably during her her stay at Mt. St. John Convent. This remarkable improvement enabled her to lead prayers and be a leader of song in our chapel. Her voice just bellowed throughout the Chapel. The last month prior to her death, Sr. Pietrina was experiencing much pain and discomfort because of the chemotherapy and radiation which she was receiving. Sister was truly long suffering and no one ever heard her complain. On April 5, 1990 Sr. Pietrina expired.

Sister loved life and a good time. Sister served the community always with a smile and was a very prayerful religious. She was certainly an exemplar during her last days. She never complained and accepted her sickness with confidence that this was God's will for her. May she rest in peace!