

Sr. Mary Theresa Cicerale

September 1, 1914 - January 27, 1993

Born Felice Cicerale, of Mary Puma and Anthony Cicerale, on September 1, 1914, Manhattan, New York, Sr. Mary Theresa entered the Community on August 15, 1939 in Staten Island, New York. Sister professed first vows on December 30, 1941.

Sister Mary Theresa was assigned to serve in many of our houses in New York and New Jersey, begging for alms, secretarial work and teaching. In 1971, Sister earned a BS Degree in Education from Fordham University.

Sister Mary Theresa's last years before she came to Providence Rest were spent at Mt. St. John Convent, Purchase, New York. Those of us who lived with her there remember so well how every Wednesday, the day traditionally dedicated to St. Joseph, the opening hymn would be Hail Holy Joseph. Sr. Mary Theresa, the leader of prayer on Wednesdays, made sure that St. Joseph was duly honored. It was this past Wednesday, after many months of suffering that Sr. Theresa serenely went home to the Lord - under the protection of St. Joseph - patron of the dying. Her devotion to St. Joseph is an example of her faithfulness to her prayer life. She spent many hours before the Blessed Sacrament, loved to say the Rosary, and prayed often and long for the souls in Purgatory.

We probably will never know how many lives Sr. Mary Theresa touched through her ministry. But an example of this was made evident to us by a letter that arrived the day she died. It was from a woman thanking Sr. Theresa for helping her during a very difficult time in her life. Sr. Theresa was there for her to listen and to care.

Sr. Mary Theresa knew that gifts are to be shared. At Christmas time Sr. Mary Theresa received many donations from benefactors. These she gladly gave to the superior to be used as Christmas gifts for the Sisters.

Sister passed to her eternal reward on January 27, 1993 at Providence Rest.