

SISTER VINCENZA MARIE ROTOLO (February 20, 1932 - August 17, 1985)

It is with sadness and a heavy heart that we have laid to rest our dear Sr. Vincenza.

Vincenza Rotolo's love of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist began when she was only a child. Born in Brooklyn on February 20, 1932, of good Christian parents, she and her little sister were placed after school in the charge of the Baptistines. There she developed a tender devotion to the Sisters and the Sisterhood that lasted and grew until her death. No other desire did she aspire to but to be a Baptistine and dedicate her life totally to God.

After caring for her father for many years, Vincenza applied and was accepted on May 11, 1982, as an Affiliate of the Congregation going on to the Associate Phase on March 19, 1983 and Noviceship on March 12, 1984.

While in Formation at Mt. St. John Academy her gentle ways reached out to all with whom she came in contact. Although she saw and spoke to the students only briefly, they felt her warmth and concern. Their problems were hers and she took them to prayer. She sought cheerfully to encourage and lift the spirits of the forlorn child.

During her Novitiate year her illness became manifest advancing so rapidly that it was feared Sr. Vincenza would not reach the completion of her training period and make first profession. How deeply and with faith she prayed! Her dream was to die as a Professed Sister of St. John the Baptist.

On December 8, 1984, the feastday of our Lady whom she loved so well, during a moving scene in her hospital room, she professed her vows glowing with gratitude towards God.

During the last months of her life at Providence Rest, Sr. Vincenza ministered to all, inspiring those with whom she talked, shared or consoled. She was a comfort to the Sisters and lay staff who cared for her needs. Forgetting her own suffering, she strove to be a patient listener and with encouraging words sought to alleviate the pain of others. She minimized her personal calvary to the very end, and fervently prayed that God be with her in her last moments.

Surrounded by her loving Sisters, who were in constant prayer, and with the priestly blessing of Father John Flesey, Sister's soul departed gently and peacefully for heaven on August 17, 1985.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE!