

*Sr. Laurentine LaGrutta, ASCJ*



Sr. Laurentine LaGrutta, ASCJ, of Hamden died January 17, 2014. Sr. Laurentine was born in Pittsburgh, PA on September 22, 1923, daughter of the late Anthony and Maria Petrocelli LaGrutta. She entered the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on December 31, 1940, professed her first vows in New Haven, CT on August 24, 1943, and her perpetual vows in New Haven on August 23, 1949.

Sr. Laurentine began her ministry in education, teaching at St. Joseph School in New York. Thereafter, Sr. Laurentine taught at schools in Connecticut (St. Anthony and St. Donato, New Haven; St. Raphael, Bridgeport; Sacred Heart Manor Nursery and Kindergarten, Hamden), California, Florida, Missouri, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Sr. Laurentine retired to Sacred Heart Manor in 2008 where she continued to minister by providing for the needs of our elderly and ill Apostles with her loving, kind presence and care for them. Throughout her years of active ministry and during her years as an Apostle Adorer, Sr. Laurentine was an inspiring example of the love and joy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Sr. Laurentine treasured her students, her family, her Apostle sisters and most importantly her time spent with Jesus in prayer. She confidently brought before her Lord the needs and intentions of all those she loved.

Predeceased by her parents, her sisters Maria LaGrutta, Theresa Ciarlo, and her brother-in-law, Henry Ciarlo, she is survived by her sister, Sr. Electa LaGrutta, ASCJ, loving nephews, Nick (Sharon) Ciarlo of Wallingford, CT, Richard (Valerie) Ciarlo of Shelton, CT, great nieces and great nephews and Sister Apostles, her religious family. M. Ernestine Desiderio, ASCJ died peacefully February 18, 2014 at Sacred Heart Manor in Hamden. She was born in McKees Rock, PA June 18, 1918 to the late Giovanni and Rosa Tarquinio Desiderio. Sr. Ernestine entered the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus August 14, 1940 in New Haven, professed first vows August 24, 1943 and professed perpetual vows July 1, 1947.

Sr. Ernestine began her Apostle ministry in teaching at St. Anthony School in New Haven. Thereafter, she taught at schools in Connecticut (St. Anthony, New Haven; Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden), California, Missouri, New York, and Pennsylvania. Her ministry included serving as principal at Santa Maria School, Bronx, New York, St. Rita School, Connellsville, Pennsylvania and St. Michael School, Butler, Pennsylvania. In 1975 along with other Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Sr. Ernestine made a three week Holy Year Pilgrimage to Italy. Sr. Ernestine retired to Sacred Heart Manor in 1994 where she continued in ministry with the clients and staff at Clelian Adult Day Center. As the years progressed, her ministry focused solely on providing for the needs of the elderly and ill Apostles with her loving presence and care for them. Sr. Ernestine earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Fordham University, New York, New York and a Master's of Arts degree in Sociology from Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut. Sr. Ernestine treasured her students, her family, her Apostle sisters and most importantly her time spent with Jesus in prayer. She confidently brought before her Lord the needs and intentions of all those she loved. Predeceased by her parents, her brothers Ernie and Ray, her sister, Helen Masciola, and her sister-in-law, Helen Desiderio, she is survived by loving nieces and nephew and Sister Apostles, her religious family..