



SISTER MARY JANE PAOLELLA, ASCJ



Sr. Mary Jane Paoella, Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, died peacefully on March 26, 2018, at Sacred Heart Manor in Hamden, Connecticut. She was 71 years old and professed 50 years in religious life. Sister Mary Jane, daughter of the late Philip and Angelina (Gagliardi) Paoella, was born in New Haven, CT on March 6, 1947. She graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden, CT in 1965 and entered the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on September 8, 1965 in Hamden. She professed First Vows on August 22, 1967 and Perpetual Vows on August 22, 1973 in Hamden, CT. In June of 2017, Sr. Mary Jane celebrated her 50th Jubilee with her Sister Apostles, family, and friends who gathered at Mount Sacred Heart Chapel in Hamden.

Sr. Mary Jane earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO and a Master of Science degree in Biology from the University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT. In her 50 years as a vowed Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Sr. Mary Jane faithfully ministered in Missouri, New York, and Connecticut as a religious superior, teacher, Science Department Chairperson, and administrator.

Sr. Mary Jane was a dynamic and innovative educator who was loved by students, administrators, and faculty. She influenced the lives of countless young women, both at Cor Jesu Academy in St. Louis, MO (1976-1990) and at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden, CT (1990-present). Working with a research team from Yale University, she pioneered a program for high school students at Sacred Heart Academy which combined genetics and research for the sequencing of DNA. Several of her articles on biotechnology were published in scientific journals and periodicals. For almost 20 years, Sr. Mary Jane served on the Human Investigation Committee of Yale University School of Medicine which reviews biomedical research. Sr. Mary Jane has been honored both at the local and national level for her work in genetics, biotechnology, and bioethics.

Sr. Mary Jane was predeceased by her parents, her brothers, Philip, Jr. (Karlyn) and Joseph (Lorraine), and her sister, Anne Paoella Ferris (Michael). She is survived by her brothers, Michael (Lori) and John (Marybeth), many loving nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, an aunt and uncle, cousins, her Sister Apostles, and countless friends.

The wake for Sr. Mary Jane will take place on March 27, 2018 at Mount Sacred Heart Chapel from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on March 28, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Mount Sacred Heart Chapel, followed by burial at All Saints Cemetery, North Haven, CT. Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Sr. Mary Jane Paoella to Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 295 Benham Street, Hamden, CT 06514 or to Sacred Heart Academy Science Department, 265 Benham Street, Hamden, CT 06514. The IOVANNE FUNERAL HOME, INC. is in charge of the arrangements.