

*Sr. Maria Consilia Mantello, 1977-1986*



Sister Maria Consilia Mantello was born in New York City, New York and entered the community of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart in 1954. She made her First Vows in 1956 and began her apostolic life as one of the six Sisters who formed the community that started Cor Jesu Academy in St. Louis, MO. She returned to the Mount to assume the responsibility of Aspirant Directress in 1960, and continued as Postulant Directress in 1965, then principal of the former Rev. Daniel J. Barry Jr. H.S. until she was appointed Provincial Superior in July, 1977. Previous to and during her first term as Provincial she was involved in directing the efforts of the United States Province in revising the Constitutions and Directory of the Congregation including putting the two volumes together in Italian and then translating them into English.

Sr. Consilia's efforts were focused in two primary areas during her three terms as Provincial Superior:

- to foster the personal growth of the Sisters by:
  - initiating a Continuing Formation Program for various age groups during the summer months
  - allowing Sisters personal higher educational choices in fields of theology, medicine and law;
- to restructure and diversify ministries in order to more effectively utilize the abilities and talents of our Sisters and so better serve the Church.

During the nine years new leadership also was fostered and developed in the province and ASCJ service was initiated in a southern home mission diocese of the United States.

Following her nine years in Province leadership, Sr. Consilia accepted the position of vice-Chancellor and Administrative Assistant to the Bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, where she remained for six years. In 1992 the Congregation established another two missions in Florida. Six Sisters were sent to the Diocese of Palm Beach to serve there in four different ministries. Sr. Consilia once again accepted the position of Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, which she held serving three Bishops consecutively over a period of seven years. For the following five years Sister served as Co-Vicar for Religious in the same Diocese of Palm Beach. In 2004 she returned to the Provincial House to give a vision to and assist in founding the new Caritas Christi Center. Since 2008, Sr. Consilia has resided at Sacred Heart Manor in Hamden, CT.