

The Sisters of St. Joseph request your prayers for

SISTER CAROLINE BENIGNI, CSJ

Who entered into eternal life

August 22, 2013

Vigil Service

Sunday, August 25, 7:00 pm

Mass of Christian Burial

Monday, August 26, 10:30 am

Services in Holy Family Chapel



Caroline Benigni was born on April 28, 1925 in Ecorse, Michigan the youngest of six children of Rudolph and Pauline (Reichenbacher) Benigni. She is survived by a sister-in-law, June and several nieces and nephews.

Caroline graduated from Nativity High School and worked for two years for the U. S. Department of Defense in Detroit prior to her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth on July 2, 1945. She received the name Sister Mary Ronald at her reception of the habit on January 3, 1946, but later returned to her baptismal name. She pronounced first vows on January 3, 1948, and final vows on January 3, 1951.

Sister Caroline received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education with a minor in Social Sciences from Nazareth College. In 1969, she earned a Master's degree in Business Education from the University of Detroit. Sister Caroline taught in many Detroit area schools including St. Joan of Arc, St. Veronica, St. Rita, St. James, and Bishop Foley High School. She also taught at St. Mary, Flint and spent many years at Catholic Central in Muskegon where she also served as a baseball and tennis coach for the high school girls. Later she served as an in-house substitute teacher and tutor at Manistee Catholic Central for fifteen years. A relentless advocate for her high school students, she worked especially hard to empower her girls to succeed in both the business world and life.

The Eucharist was the center of Caroline's life. She fully lived out the vision of Vatican II to be among the people of God and support them in their deepest needs. Her vibrant, friendly personality witnessed well the inclusive love of God. Her sense of humor and deep kindness helped to unite people wherever she served. Even with diminished health in the last few years, she continued to serve as a Eucharistic minister to the homebound, and as a healing presence of concern at almost every funeral service in the Manistee community.

A woman of many interests, Caroline loved to travel and saw most of the States and a good part of Europe. She truly enjoyed music and theater, followed world news closely, strove to promote justice, and was an avid sports fan as well. She lived life fully, and thus enlivened the lives of so many in her daily encounters. No one was a stranger in Caroline's eyes. All were potential friends. Those who knew her best, especially Sr. Fran Stefanski, SJ, with whom she lived for many years, will remember her as a profoundly loving and special gift in their lives. Caroline's buoyant presence will be greatly missed.

May She Rest In Peace!