

*Mother Rosalia Sosso, ASCJ*



Mother M. Rosalia Sosso, ASCJ of Hamden, died Sunday July 15, 2012 at Sacred Heart Manor. Mother Rosalia was born in Pittsburgh, PA May 21, 1915 to the late Antonio and Civita Schiavetta Sosso. She entered the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus August 28, 1935 in New Haven, Professed her first vows in New Haven August 24, 1938 and her perpetual vows in New Haven August 26, 1944.

For nearly three-quarters of a century, Mother Rosalia has served her community, the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, serving forty-one of those years in leadership. Mother Rosalia began her ministry in education, teaching at Our Lady of Pompeii in New York and Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden, CT. Mother Rosalia served as principal at schools in Connecticut (St. Anthony, New Haven), and New York (Sacred Heart Private, Bronx). She also served as the mistress of the aspirants who were in formation in the congregation during her 9 years of teaching at Sacred Heart Academy. She was loved by her students.

In 1960, Mother Rosalia was appointed as the fifth Provincial Superior for the United States Province of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She served in that capacity until she was elected in 1968 as the fifth Superior General of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and moved to the Generalate in Rome, Italy. Mother Rosalia was re-elected Superior General for two more consecutive terms from 1974-1980 and 1980-1986. As Superior General, Mother Rosalia oversaw the expansion of the worldwide ministries of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She spearheaded the translations of the writings of the Foundress, Mother Clelia Merloni, and guided the congregation through the changes after the Second Vatican Council. Upon completion of her third term as Superior General, Mother Rosalia ministered at Rocca di Papa, a spirituality center in Rome, Italy until she retired to Sacred Heart Manor, Hamden, CT in 1999.

Mother Rosalia was a true Apostle Adorer who treasured her hours in Chapel confidently bringing before her Lord the needs and intentions of her Sisters, her family, her friends, and the ministries of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brothers Anthony, Frank and Bernard and her sisters, Antoinette Sullivan and Mary Ferraro. She is survived by her sister, Anne Paolino and many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and Sister Apostles, her religious family.