

*Sr. Ernestine Desiderio, ASCJ*



Sr. 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..