

*Sr. Ursula Bongiovanni, ASCJ*



Sr. Ursula Bongiovanni, ASCJ, died peacefully at Sacred Heart Manor in Hamden, CT on May 29, 2015, 6 days after her 102nd birthday. She was born in New Kensington, PA on May 23, 1913 to the late Calisto and Angela (Carpegna) Bongiovanni. She entered the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus December 29, 1947 in New Haven, Connecticut, professed first vows on August 22, 1950 and perpetual vows on August 24, 1953.

As a vowed Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for almost 65 years, Sr. Ursula touched many people as she shared the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus through her teaching, administrative service, and love of music. Well-known for directing the Sacred Heart Academy ‘operettas’ as they were originally called, Sr. Ursula was well loved by the Sacred Heart Academy students and faculty during her teaching years from 1951-1974 and 1975-1980. Sr. Ursula also taught in the Mount Sacred Heart College and then later served as the registrar and dean. Sr. Ursula served her religious community as Provincial Secretary and Provincial Councilor. She continued her ministry in education as principal at Blessed Sacrament Junior High School, Hamden, CT, then at St. Rita School (Connellsville, PA). She returned to teaching at Sacred Heart School, Pinellas Park, FL. After teaching, Sr. Ursula was an administrative assistant in the Chancery in the Diocese of St. Petersburg Florida. In 1993, Sr. Ursula began serving in parish ministry, first in Pinellas Park, FL and then in West Palm Beach, FL as a volunteer in the parish health care ministry. Upon her retirement to Sacred Heart Manor in 2001, Sr. Ursula remained active assisting others in need as well as participating in the various activities at the Clelian Adult Day Center. Sr. Ursula earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Studies from Albertus Magnus, New Haven, CT and a Master of Arts degree in American History from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Sr. Ursula treasured her family, her Apostle sisters, her students 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 sister, Carmeline Gatto and her brothers, John, Peter and Benjamin, her nephews, Paul Gatto and John Bongiovanni, Jr., she is survived by her loving nieces, Sr. Ernestine Bongiovanni, ASCJ, Georgetta (Don) Maiolo of Vestal, NY, Dr. Cheryl (David) Purcell of Lakeview, OR, nephews George (Loretta) Gatto of New Kensington, PA, Frank (Eva) Bongiovanni of North Olmsted, Ohio, Charles (Donna) Bongiovanni of Leesburg, VA, and Sister Apostles, her religious family.