



Mrs. Mary Jane Gonia

July 7, 1920 - March 24, 2012

Mrs. Mary Jane Gonia, 91, of 140 Melbourne Rd., formerly of West Lebanon, NY, died peacefully Saturday evening at home surrounded by her loving family. Born in Pittsfield on July 7, 1920, the daughter of George W. and Jane E. Daley Nesbit, she was a 1938 graduate of St. Joseph's High School. She graduated from Our Lady of the Elms College and received her Master's Degree in Education from The College of St. Rose and, in her seventies, a Master's Degree in Theology from St. Bonaventure University.

After college she worked as a Chemist for Bayer Aspirin. Mrs. Gonia loved teaching and began her career as an educator at the NYS museum. She worked in both the Schenectady and Guilderland, NY school districts for 16 years, retiring in 1980. She also tutored for many years at The Darrow School in New Lebanon, NY.

A devout Catholic, Mary Jane was a communicant of St. Mark's Church and formerly a communicant of, and lector at, Immaculate Conception Church in New Lebanon, NY. Her life echoed her beliefs and she contributed much to her communities, both global and local.

She leaves her husband, Walter J. Gonia, whom she married on June 22, 1973; six children, Marilyn Lemmerman and her husband, David of Media, PA; Joseph W. Stauch and his wife, Karen of West Lebanon, NY; Kathleen Millett and her husband, Gary of West Lebanon, NY; Carol Hudson and her husband, Dale of So. Freeport, ME; James Stauch and his wife, Catherine of Gansevoort, NY; Jayne Bannish and her husband, Dan

of Longmeadow, MA; and step-daughter Jeanie Popalis and her husband Jim; her brother, Paul Nesbit and his wife Therese of Pittsfield, two sisters, Anne Nesbit of Pittsfield and Sheila Keator and her husband George of Lenox, MA. Mary Jane was predeceased by her first husband, Joseph Stauch who died in 1966 and her sister 's Kathleen, Margaret Farley, brothers George, John FX , Leo, and Robert Nesbit. Mary Jane has 23 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and many dear nieces and nephews. She always considered and treated all she knew as family and her love 'knew no bounds'.

Funeral Notice

Funeral services for Mary Jane Gonia will be Friday, March 30, 2012 at 9 am from the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield MA, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 am at St. Mark's Church celebrated by Mary Jane's Capuchin friend, Fr. Jerry Schroeder. Burial will follow in North Cemetery in Richmond, MA. Calling hours at the funeral home will be Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 4 to 7 pm with a time for sharing memories. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Dwelling Place Ministry c/o Rev. Jerome Schroeder, OFMcap, 1611 Manitoba Ave., South Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53172 or to the New Lebanon Library, 550 State Route 20, New Lebanon, NY 12125.

Tribute Wall

JL

“ *All the love in the world to Grandpa Walt, Aunt Anne, Aunt Shiela, Uncle Paul and all of my wonderful Aunts, Uncles, and cousins.* ”



Joe Lemmerman - March 31, 2012 at 03:30 PM

JE

“ *Oh my dear Sheila, our hearts go out to you. You are in our thoughts and prayers. We are with you in spirt. Love, Jo-Ann and Galo* ”



Jo-Ann & Galo Emerson - March 28, 2012 at 07:04 AM

EG

“ *I don't think I could have loved her anymore if she had been my sister. Sending love to all of the children... Eileen Soraghan Gerwin (cousin).* ”

Eileen Zerhusen-daughterof Eileen Gerwin - March 27, 2012 at 06:57 PM

AK

“ I first met Mary Jane when she was my fifth grade teacher. She was an angel on earth. I'm so glad that I was able to track her down a few years ago and talk to her again. We are all so fortunate to have had her in our lives. My deepest sympathy to the family.

Andrea (Gale) Kelly



Andrea Gale Kelly - March 27, 2012 at 04:14 PM