

Sister Monica Marie Leonard, D.M.



Sister Monica Marie Leonard, 85, a member of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, Villa Rossello, Newfield, NJ, died on Monday, January 11, 2010, at Misericordia Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in York, PA, following a brief illness.

Born in Hanover, on September 24, 1924, Sister Monica Marie was the daughter of the late John Leonard and Margaret Small Leonard. Having entered the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy in York, on December 27, 1949, she professed her Vows on August 15, 1951.

Pursuing studies at College Misericordia, (now known as Misericordia University) in Dallas, PA, she earned a degree as an elementary school educator.

Totally dedicated to her religious vocation, Sister Monica Marie's life was characterized by her spirit of persevering prayer, her great love for her religious congregation, and her outstanding compassion combined with a joyful, caring spirit in ministering to others. A hallmark of her character was her good sense of humor which she shared with all. An educator for many years, Sister Monica Marie taught in various schools in Milford, Mass., Hazleton, Hershey, and Berwick, and in Vineland, Millville, and Newfield, NJ.

In later years, Sister Monica Marie was the caregiver for the ill and elderly sisters at Villa Rossello, Newfield. She also spent a few years as a child caregiver first at Villa Rossello in Newfield and then at Holy Child Nursery in York. Her last years were spent in retirement at Mercy Residence in York. In addition to being an educator and caregiver, Sister Monica Marie always enjoyed cooking and baking and she was an avid reader. She took great pleasure in doing things for others and she loved to be among people. Known for her keen sense of humor and her compassionate spirit she was someone whom people enjoyed being with to share a good conversation and to experience her peaceful and pleasant good nature.