

SISTER MARY PAUL GIORDANO, DM

Date of Birth – March 29, 1947

Date of Death – July 29, 2024



Sister Mary Paul Giordano, a member of The Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy Community, entered into eternal rest on July 29, 2024. She died at Misericordia Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, York, PA, where she resided for the past several years.

Sister Mary Paul was born March 29, 1947, in Philadelphia, PA to James and Margaret (Horn) Giordano. She entered her Religious Community Sept. 12, 1966, and professed Vows August 15, 1969.

She earned a BA degree in Elementary Education and taught for ten years in Catholic Schools in Camden Diocese, NJ, Harrisburg Diocese, PA, Scranton Diocese, PA, Worcester Diocese, MA. and Springfield Diocese, MA. The next forty years were spent in service to her Community and Parish Ministry.

She will forever be remembered for her stories and jokes which she used to bring a smile to all people she met, especially the ill and elderly. She was extremely creative, a talented writer, and loved sharing her joyfulness with everyone. She was involved with the Catholic Daughters of America, acting as Spiritual Moderator in both the NJ and PA Chapters. She was also involved with the Rossellian Family Outreach, lay associates of the Daughters of Mercy in NJ.

She is predeceased by her parents and her sister, Theresa Giordano Hauck. She leaves behind two brothers, Thomas and James Giordano, a sister Margaret T. Giordano and her husband Robert Sultzbach, and a sister Mary Clare Selway and her husband Matthew, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, and her Religious Sisters of the Newfield Province.

Euology:

Sister Mary Paul was given so many gifts and talents from God that it is impossible to elaborate on all of them. She did not hide any of them under a bushel basket, but used them and shared them with everyone who knew her. Her path in life had so many trials and tough obstacles to overcome but she did not complain about them, always moving forward as best she could. She faced every hurdle head on. She lived with us upstairs for a while until we were no longer able to care for her physical needs. When I told her the time had come to move downstairs, she thought about it for just a few minutes before she responded,

“Yeh, I know the time has come. Now I just wonder what adventures God has planned for me in this new chapter of my life”. She very simply put everything into God’s hands.

Her love for Community was outstanding. Wanting to combine her deep love for St. MJR and her love for children, she wrote a book called “Benedetta’s Treasure”. Through that book she has spread the spirit and charism of Mother Foundress to hundreds of young people. I am sure our Mother Foundress was right up front waiting to embrace her as she entered Heaven’s portal.

Her family was one of the pearls of great price that God gave her and she cherished each one of them as a gift from God to her. She was proud of her siblings and relished every visit and celebration she shared with them. She loved them dearly and it was a joy to see how much they reciprocated that love. Margaret told me on several occasions, “ she was a GOOD big sister” and Mary Paul was proud to play that role with them.

She was a very gifted writer of stories and poetry. Her poems won many prizes and awards, including First Prize in the National Catholic Daughters of America poetry contest. She was a faithful member of the Catholic Daughters of America Association and acted as their Spiritual Moderator both in NJ and PA until the very last days of her life. However, I think her biggest reward was seeing the joy on peoples’ faces, especially those of the other Residents at Misericordia, when she read her works to them. Her stories were usually humorous and light-hearted – often accompanied with a joke or two. Her poetry ran the gamut from comical to quite philosophical.

Another gift given to her was that of creativity. She had boxes and boxes filled with cardboard, yarn, string and craft supplies. She found out that one of the Residents used to be quite a golfer. So, she reached into her boxes and found materials to make a small golf course out of cardboard. She had a very large “giving” heart – always concerned about lifting other people’s spirits. I don’t think there are many rooms here without a picture colored by her – always with a spiritual message.

Perhaps more than anything else Sr. Mary Paul will be remembered for her joy of living, her free-spiritedness, and her compassion for others. As her strong patron,

St. Paul, said, “she has finished the course and won the race”. And now, as Mother Theresa of Calcutta said, “she is experiencing her own personal coronation in her heavenly home”.

Rest in peace, Mary Paul . . . In the Church Triumphant.