



Sisters of St. John the Baptist
Provincial Residence

3308 Campbell Drive
Bronx, New York 10465-1358
Phone: 718-518-7820
Fax: 718-518-8930

SR. RITA MARIE CAREY, C.S.JB.
90 years of age was a Sister of St. John the Baptist for 72 years

Sr. Rita Marie, C.S.JB. passed to her eternal reward peacefully at White Plains Hospital, NY on April 18, 2020. Sister was interred at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne, NY on April 27, 2020. Prayers were said at the gravesite by Rev. George Kanshamba. A Memorial Mass will be scheduled at a later date.

Loretta was born on April 29, 1930 in Brooklyn, NY to John and Julia Walsh. She entered the Sisters of St. John the Baptist on July 1946 at St. John Villa Academy, Staten Island NY. Sister celebrated her Final Vows on February 22, 1949 at Mt. St. John, Purchase, NY.

Sr. Rita Marie began her ministry as a teacher with our Sisters in Kitwe, Africa from March 22, 1949 to June 1952 serving Grades 1 to 7. When she came back to the United States in July 16, 1952, Sister continued her teaching apostolate at St. John Villa Academy in Staten Island teaching grade 1 until January 1956. Then on the 21st of February 1956, Sister returned to Africa and taught in our school in Chingola until November 1957. In December 1957, she was transferred to Kitwe and taught Grade 7 until 1961. January 2, 1961 she returned to the United States and taught in St. John Academy Elementary until July 1963.

September 5, 1963, Sr. Rita Marie's passion as a missionary proceeded when she returned to Africa and taught Grade 7 in St. John School, Kitwe, Northern Rhodesia until 1966. In 1966, she was appointed Principal at Sacred Heart School in Chingola, Zambia until 1969 then she was transferred to St. John School in Kitwe as a Principal until 1972. While in the African mission, Sr. Rita Marie became the Regional Superior of both schools: St. John and Sacred Heart she served in this capacity until 1975. From November 1975 she was sent to open a new mission in Botswana, South Africa and taught Grades 1 to 3 in Kopano Government Elementary School until 1976.



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When Sr. Rita Marie returned to the USA in December 11, 1976. She took a month's rest then she was assigned to assist the convent and school in St. Vincent de Paul, Stirling, NJ from January 1977 to July 1977. In August 1977 to March 1978, Sister was transferred to teach at St. Bernard School, Plainfield, NJ.

Sr. Rita Marie's generosity to serve our community was endless: April 30, 1978 to August 17, 1978, she was commissioned to assist in the preparations of General Chapter in Rome. Upon returned, she was appointed Superior and Principal at St. Vincent de Paul, Stirling, NJ from Sept. 1978 to July 1980. In August 1980, she served as an elementary teacher at St. John Villa Academy until 1982. August 1982, she was transferred to minister to the school children of St. James in NYC and served as Superior in the convent until July 1984.

Her unwavering service for community was immeasurable when she was elected Secretary for General Chapter she went to Rome without hesitation from July 25, 1984 to August 22, 1984. When she came back, she was appointed Assistant Principal of St. John Villa Academy Elementary until July 1985. Her love to minister to early childhood was unsurpassable, she taught the Pre-K at St. John Villa Academy until 1986.

Sr. Rita Marie went on Spiritual Renewal in Ireland from July 26, 1986 to November 1986. When she returned, Sr. Rita Marie went to St. John Villa and taught in the elementary school until July 1987, from August 1987 to July 1987 she served as assistant principal and taught at the same time.

In August 8, 1988 she ventured to a new mission in Sacred Heart School, Mississippi and taught in the school until June 1989. When she came back to the Northeast, she was appointed Superior and Administrator of St. John Villa Academy until 1992. August 8, 1992, Sr. Rita Marie traveled the borough and continued her teaching ministry at St. Dominic School, Bronx, NY until 1993. August of 1993 she was appointed principal of St. John Villa Academy and served in this capacity until 1996. In August 1996 she was transferred to St. Roch School, Staten Island and ministered



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to the early childhood. September 1997, she was appointed Superior of St. Roch Convent and taught full time then part time until July 2009. August 2009, Sr. Rita Marie retired at Mt. St. John Convent, Purchase, NY.

Sr. Rita Marie's wits and wisdom was loved by all. She was a dedicated religious who faithfully fulfilled her ministerial and communal responsibilities bringing joy to all she met.

Loretta, Sr. Rita Marie is survived by her loving sister Julie, nieces, nephews and cousins whom she loved so dearly until God called her home.