

SR. CELESTE BONINA, C.S.JB.

September 18, 1914 – July 29, 2003

Sr. Celeste Bonina, a resident of St. Lucy Convent, Newark, New Jersey, for a period of 64 years passed away on July 29th at Providence Rest Nursing Home, Bronx, New York.

Since her first profession of vows in the Congregation of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist on December 9, 1934, Sister Celeste Bonina has made an enormous contribution to the Church as well as to the greater community.

During her 69 years as a religious, Sister Celeste has touched the lives of so very many of God's holy people. A warm, devoted, loving and caring person, Sister has given selflessly to those in need. Whether it was by assisting the sick, visiting those in prison or by being present to those who needed comforting in any way...Sister was always available. She has given so much to so many especially to the members of St. Lucy's Church, parish and school, where she ministered for 64 years of her religious life. Sister's gift of leadership was exemplary and played an important role in assisting the orphanage, the school and the convent through various spiritual, social and fund-raising activities which she coordinated. Her effervescent personality and beautiful spirit of hospitality was experienced in so many ways but most especially when Sister Celeste prepared and welcomed many of God's family to one of her famous spaghetti dinners.

On May 22, 1988, Sister was the recipient of the JUBILEE MEDAL Pro Meritis for distinguished service to the Archdiocese of Newark. Sister was also the recipient of the AMICI AWARD for her unselfish devotion to the Church and Community.

After 64 years of dedicated and faithful service to the Church and Community, Sr. Celeste was unable to continue her active life of ministry to the Lord's people. On January 15, 2002 Sister required greater physical care and was, therefore, transferred to Mt. St. John Convent, Purchase, New York. A year later, due to a greater decline in Sister's health, it was necessary to admit her to Providence Rest Nursing Home, where on July 29th Sr. Celeste was called home to eternal life by her heavenly Spouse.

*"May the Holy Angels be there to welcome you
with all the saints who go before you,
that you may know the peace and joy of paradise;
that you may enter into everlasting rest."*