

## SISTER IMELDA QUIRK

Sister Imelda Quirk, a native Staten Islander, was born Mary Elizabeth Quirk on March 14, 1912. She was baptized on March 30, 1912, at St. Joseph's Church, Rosebank, and confirmed on October 12, 1922, at St. Mary's in Rosebank.

On July 7, 1935, Mary Elizabeth entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist at St. John Villa in Staten Island, where she graduated with an honors regents diploma in June, 1936. Her first religious vows were taken on February 3, 1938; final profession on August 30, 1943; Silver Jubilee, February, 1962; and Golden Jubilee, February, 1987.

Sister Imelda earned a Diocesan Teacher's Certificate in 1942; a B.S. in Education from Seton Hall University in 1953; followed by an M.A. from Seton Hall in 1957. In 1968 she was granted state certification from St. Coletta School of Stritch College in Wisconsin and Keane College, formally Newark State, NJ. to teach the handicapped. In 1976-77 she studied in Rome at the Regina Mundi Pontifical Institute.

Sister Imelda's teaching career was spread throughout the New York/New Jersey area. She began in 1938 at O.L. of Loreto, NYC; and continued at St. John Villa Academy; St. James, NYC; St. Dominic, Bronx; St. Lucy, Newark; St. Vincent de Paul, Stirling, NJ; Mt. St. John Academy, Gladstone, NJ; Bishop Burke, Gloversville, NY; Alphonsus College, Woodcliff Lake, NJ.

In addition to teaching Sister Imelda spent some time assisting in parish work at Most Precious Blood Parish, Brooklyn. Within the Congregation of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist she also served at various times as a boarder mistress, cook, secretary and librarian. Although she "retired" in 1981 from her position as chairperson of the Villa's history department, she never considered herself "retired" but continued her welcoming service of reception at the Villa's door and phone until September of this year. She died peacefully on September 12, 1998, at Staten Island University Hospital, where she succumbed to cancer and heart failure.

Sister Imelda is survived by one sister, Florence Thorsen, two brothers - George and William, seven nieces and nephews, seventeen grand-nieces and nephews, and 19 great-grand nieces and nephews.