

SISTER LOUIS MARIE PRIOLO

(March 31, 1933 - August 28, 1964)

Sister Louis Marie Priolo had been born in Brooklyn, New York, on March 31, 1933, of Louis Priolo and Lucy Pugliaris. After a healthy and normal childhood she entered Saint John's Villa Academy as an aspirant, and spent her last two years of high school there. From the very first Mary Lou, as she was then known, gave a beautiful example of seriousness and dedication to the religious life she had chosen to enter at the early age of sixteen. For her it was never a matter of surface observance or externals, but a deeply personal and loving relationship with Christ and His Mother. Her warm and childlike devotion to Our Lady marked this initial phase of her spiritual life, and matured with the years.

On July 14, 1951 she was accepted as a postulant at Mount Saint John Novitiate in White Plains, New York, and received the religious Habit on the Feast of the Purification in 1952. After pronouncing her first Vows on February third of the following year, Sister was assigned to the pre-kindergarten group in Our Lady of Loreto Day Nursery in New York. It was her delight to be among little children, and to these her entire religious apostolate would be dedicated. In 1957 she was given a new assignment at St. John Villa Academy where she taught the second grade. There Sister pronounced her final Vows on August 29, 1958. In 1963 she received a transfer to St. Roch's School in Greenwich, Conn. where she taught the first grade until the closing of school of that year. The following September Sister was scheduled to teach the first grade in St. James School in New York City. During the vacation period preceding this new assignment she was spending a few days at our resort in Cairo, New York. It was here that on the morning of August 28th, while returning from Holy Mass at St. Anthony's Friary in Catskill, the car in which she and four other Sister-companions were riding, was struck by a lumber truck. All occupants of the car were seriously injured and taken to Memorial Hospital in Cairo. Although every possible medical aid was employed to save her, Sister Louis Marie succumbed to her injuries after three hours, dying at approximately eleven A.M. with all the comforts of our holy Religion.

Sister Louis Marie always kept alive in her heart the pure flame of a complete consecration to Christ, her Spouse. She had a firm desire to serve Him to the best of her ability, and expressed this desire in the faithful observance of her religious obligations. Perhaps in His merciful and loving designs God would no longer have her wait and suffer here on earth, - her untimely and sudden death being His own clear witness that she was ripe for heaven. "So well the Lord loved her, from a corrupt world He would grant her swift release." (Wisdom 4, 14).

Sister's absence is keenly felt by the Congregation for, unassuming and artless as she was, her gentle goodness radiated quietly, almost imperceptibly, endearing her to her fellow-Sisters and to all those she came in contact with during her short, fervent religious life.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE!