

**SR. LUIGIA NICOLELLA, C.S.JB.**

**September 7, 1913 – July 22, 2005**

**Sr. Luigia Nicolella was born on September 7, 1913 in Frasso Telesino, Benevento, Italy, to Luigi Nicolella and Maria Josephine Iannucci.**

**On November 22, 1932, Sister entered the Congregation of Sisters of St. John the Baptist in Rome, Italy, and made her first profession of vows on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1934. Sister Luigia began her life of dedication and heartfelt commitment to God soon after her first profession when she was asked to travel to America and be missioned at St. John Villa Academy on Staten Island. It was at St. John Villa that Sister pronounced her perpetual vows on December 8, 1939.**

**After twelve years of loving service to the Villa community, God called Sr. Luigia to Mt. St. John Convent, White Plains, New York, where she served for eight months before being assigned to St. Lucy Convent, Newark, New Jersey, on October 27, 1947.**

**On August 30, 1950 Sr. Luigia was transferred to St. Joseph Villa in Peapack, New Jersey where she would commence her long and loving witness to God's work in Community for the next 45 years until her retirement in October 1995.**

**During the course of her 72 years as a Sister of St. John the Baptist, Sr. Luigia always gave of herself so graciously and generously to the work she was called upon to do in the American Province, her "home away from home." Sister's response was always: "Whatever God wants," and her disposition was a constant reflection of the charism of our Blessed Father Founder...a wholehearted dedication to God's will and work in Community, a deep and lasting trust in Divine Providence, gracious hospitality, and a gentle care and concern for all those in need. Nothing was too great or too difficult if it involved God's work and the Community's call to serve and minister to God's holy people...which Sr. Luigia did so faithfully and lovingly for 72 years as a Religious. She was truly the mirror that God used to reflect the image of His divine Son, Jesus...a beautiful reflection of Christ's gentle love and compassionate goodness; her smile radiated the kindness and gentleness that were so characteristic of her. As a Sister of St. John the Baptist, her life of deep prayer and heartfelt dedication to God was the motivating force behind everything Sister did.**

**On July 22, 2005, Sr. Luigia responded to the Lord's call for the last time in her journey of faith and entered into the peace and joy of eternal life. "Come, blessed of my Father, and receive the kingdom prepared for you from all eternity."**