

Sr. Dennys Clara Polovischak, SSMI

Born to Eternal Life April 20, 2013 - 60 years in the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate Sr. Dennys Clara Polovischak, the youngest of 12 children was born in Youngstown, OH to Nicholas and Anna Polovischak. Her father died when she was only two years old. Her mother raised her large family with the love and devotion of two parents. Sr. Dennys, as the youngest, spent the longest time with her mother and from her, developed a strong will, a big heart and a sense of humor.



Sister Dennys received her elementary and secondary education in Youngstown, OH. As a young lady she was very active in her parish of Holy Trinity. She was a dedicated member of the Senior Sodality and the League of Ukrainian Catholics. In 1953, in her mid-twenties, Sr. Dennys entered the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate after meeting the sisters in Stamford, Connecticut, feeling called to live of life totally dedicated to God.

While in the congregation, Sister continued her education and received her Bachelor of Science degree from Gwenedd Mercy College in Philadelphia and furthered her education at Queen of the Apostles College and Seton Hall University. She spent many years as a teacher and principal in schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut. For several years, Sr. Dennys served as the Administrator of St. Joseph's Adult Care Home and the Administrator at St. Mary's Villa in Sloatsburg, New York. Sr. Dennys also served as the Provincial Bursar for the Congregation for a number of years and the Coordinator of the annual Dormition Pilgrimage in Sloatsburg, NY, a job she performed with utmost harmony, dignity and effectiveness.

Although Sr. Dennys was an excellent teacher and loved by her students, one of her favorite missions was at Sheptytsky Arms, a low-income housing complex in Pittsburgh, PA, at which she played a very instrumental role in building and running from 1987-1998. Her fundraising expertise, business skills and sense of humor are still noted by people there today. She loved being at Sheptytsky Arms because she was helping the elderly and doing work that she liked doing.

Sr. Dennys loved her family and she felt the same about her Congregation of Sisters Servants. She will be remembered for her dedication and for giving 100% of herself in her ministries. She will also be remembered as a prankster, one who loved to tell jokes, perform funny skits, as she enjoyed life and loved to make people laugh.

In 2005, due to failing health, Sr. Dennys went to Nyack Nursing Home in Nyack, NY where she stayed until she peacefully fell asleep in the Lord on April 20, 2013.

The panahyda and parastas services were celebrated on April 23 at St. Mary's Villa by Rev. Edward Young, Rev. John Terlecky, Rev. Max Kobasuk, Rev. Andriy Dudkevych and Rev. George Worschak. Sr. Dennys' funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Eparch of the Stamford Diocese and Rev. Edward Young, on April 24th. Burial and interment was held at Sloatsburg, NY. Although brothers and sisters predeceased Sr. Dennys in death, her family from Ohio and Pennsylvania were well represented at the funeral by her sister-in-law Theresa, nieces, nephews and cousins.