



Mary A. (Polera) Potenza

August 3, 1922 - February 16, 2008

Mrs. Mary A. (Polera) Potenza, age 85, of Utica, went home to be with her Lord when she peacefully passed away on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at the Masonic Care Community of NY. Her loving family was by her side at the time of her passing.

Born in Utica on August 13, 1922, Mary was the daughter of the late Thomas and Francesca (Pellegrino) Polera. She was raised and educated locally and attended T. R. Proctor High School. On April 27, 1946 she married Stephen A. Potenza with whom she shared 59 years prior to his passing on May 8, 2005. The couple enjoyed a relationship that was blessed with faith filled love, commitment, and a companionship that they truly came to know.

In her earlier working years, Mary was employed at the General Electric Company on French Rd. in the capacity of group leader, retiring in 1982. Her family was her greatest priority and her concern for them was natural and effortless. Always concerned with their wellness and happiness, she promoted their accomplishments with her encouraging attitude. She had a knack of preparing meals for special family occasions and she was an exceptional baker. She cared for her home with meticulous regard and honored the bonds of friendship. Mary held a genuine honor for her children, the generations that followed, her church, and the powers of St. Anthony and the Blessed Mother who guided her life and goodness. As a devoted parishioner of St. Anthony of Padua Church, she attended the annual St. Anthony Novena and the St. Cosmo and St. Damiano Celebration.

Mary is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Vito and Donna Potenza of Ft. Washington, MD; and her son-in-law, Chuck Kelly of Utica. Always close to her heart was the memory of her daughter, Sara Gina Kelly who passed away on May 11, 2000. She adored and cherished her grandchildren, Kimberly and Chris Jennings, Chucky Kelly and fiancée Shannon Baker, and Paul Kelly, all of Utica, Stephen V. and Colleen Potenza, and Dr. Matthew and Alyson Potenza all of NYC; and her great-grandchildren, Delaney Sara Jennings, Christopher Wayne Jennings, and Kathrin Ann Potenza. Survivors also include her brothers and sister-in-law, Pat and Mary Polera of Utica, Dominick “Dick” Polera of CA, and Frank Polera of Rome, NY; her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws, John Potenza, Dominick Potenza, Ida DeCarlo, Catherine “Kate” Grazadei, Jody Potenza, and Mary and Sebastian “Buster” DiCesare; and her longtime and loyal friends, Rose Sangiacomo, Rose Coriale, Angelo Guidolotti, and Vincent Dannes. She was predeceased by her sister and brother-in-law, Angie and Victor Gerace; her brother and sister-in-law, John “Derby Dan” and Frances Polera; and her in-laws, Palma “Polly” and Raymond Zangrilli, Jr., Rose and Joseph Fiore, Pat Potenza, Nancy Potenza, and Beverly Polera.

The family extends sincere thanks to the staff of the Brooklyn Household of the Masonic Care Community for showing Mary so much love, good care, and compassion.

Visitation will be held Wednesday (today) from 4:00-8:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. By family request, please omit floral offerings. For those wishing to do so, please consider memorial donations in Mary’s honor to the Masonic Care Community of NY; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Mary’s funeral service will commence on Thursday morning at 9:30 from the funeral home and 10:30 at St. Anthony of Padua Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Tribute Wall



“ To Vito Potenza and family,
I am presently vacationing and visiting my son and his family in Phoenix, AZ and I read today on the internet Utica Observer Dispatch about your mother's passing and am feeling very much sadness for the loss of such a great woman. Mary and I worked together at General Elec. for many, many years.
She was a wonderful lady and a great worker - becoming a group leader in the Spare Parts Shipping Area. She was well liked at GE and her retirement party was a great testament to the number of friends she had there and how well liked she was. She was affectionately called "Sister Mary" as she was a friend, care taker, and confidant to so many of her co-workers.
She was a great friend of mine and was so thoughtful and kind to me and my wife Milly, and she remembered my young children with gifts from time to time. My whole family was especially fond of Mary. I know that she is now peaceful and happy with the Lord, her wonderful husband Steve, and daughter Sara.
I am sorry that I will not be able to be with her family to celebrate the wonderful memories of her life and to say a final farewell to her- as we will not be returning home until April.
Please know our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time. She was always so proud of her children and grandchildren and spoke of all of you often.
We are having a Mass said for Mary today February 19th by my brother Fr. Edward F. Moore, Maryknoll Missions.
She and your dad were always faithful in supporting and remembering Fr. Ed
in the missions he served and he asked us to express his sympathy to all of you.
Most sincerely,
Don and Milly Moore###imported-begin###Don Moore###imported-end###

February 19, 2008 at 12:56 PM



“ Dearest Vito and Donna and family,
We were so sorry to hear about your mother's passing. I remember the happy times when your parents would come to visit or your mom would call my dad to ask how he made his zucchini flowers.....it makes my heart smile to remember those very good days...God Bless You and you are in our hearts and in our prayers.
With love,
Michele and Joe###imported-begin###Michele and Joe McDermott###imported-end##

February 19, 2008 at 11:26 AM



“ I fondly remember Mrs. Potenza growing up on Gardner St. She was always so friendly and such a wonderful person. My family and I wanted to say how sorry we are to hear of her passing.###imported-begin###Andrea Raiano###imported-end##

February 18, 2008 at 07:41 PM



“ Dear Vito , Donna and families,
Please accept our deepest sympathy in the loss of your mother, our Aunt Mary. She was truly a lovely woman who loved everyone and everyone loved her. She is united now with Uncle Steve and Sara and we are sure she is the happiest person there.
All our love,
Ray, Terry and family###imported-begin###Ray & Terry Zangrilli###imported-end##

February 18, 2008 at 05:24 PM