



## Teresa (DeBernardis) Russo

August 16, 1921 - August 14, 2007

Mrs. Teresa R. (DeBernardis) Russo, age 85, of Utica, passed away on Tuesday, August 14, 2007.

Born in Utica on August 16, 1921, Teresa was the daughter of the late Serafino and Lucia (DeRisio) DeBernardis. She was raised and educated locally. On November 15, 1941 she married Albert C. Russo with whom she shared a blessed union of nearly 40 years until his passing on October 20, 1981.

Among her years of employment, Teresa had great memories as a school crossing guard on the corner of Jay St. and Kossuth Ave., and as a retail clerk at State Street Mill. A true matriarch, she touched the lives of everyone with whom she came in contact. Teresa cherished her family, and referred to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as her "joys". In fact, she was respected as a "Grandma" to many. Her greatest pleasure was caring for her family and cooking for them on all occasions. Over the years, she enjoyed numerous trips and vacations with her family. She enjoyed singing and listening to opera. She was a parishioner of St. Anthony of Padua Church and a member of the Ladies Auxillary of the Knights of St. John Commandery #321.

Teresa is survived by her five children; her sons and daughters-in-law, John A. and Kathleen (Simone) Russo, and Serafino "Sam" and Johann (Manganelli) Russo, all of Utica; her daughters and sons-in-law, Lucy (Russo) and Donald Nickel of TN, Dolores (Russo) and Benny Orłowski of Frankfort, and Alberta

(Russo) and Albert Martorella of Utica; her fifteen grandchildren, Michele (Russo) and Walter Witt; Renee (Russo) and Gerald Sullivan, David and Renee (Danella) Russo, Audra (Russo) and Mark Colucci, Keith “Casey” Russo, Joseph Russo, Teresa Penny (Nickel) and Joseph Mann; Carla Nickel, Donald and Marti (Waugh) Nickel, Stacy (Orlowski) and James Ludwikowski, Russell Orlowski, Adam Orlowski, Teresa Rose Martorella, Danielle Martorella, and Marissa Martorella; and her fifteen great-grandchildren, Dominica Witt, Ethan Witt, Evan Witt; Christopher Sullivan, Rachel Sullivan, Olivia Russo, Daniel Russo, Julia Marie Colucci; Austin Mann, Joelle Mann, Jacqueline Mann, Eden Payne, Timothy Payne, Zachary Reif, and Bryce Ludwikowski. Also surviving are her sisters and brothers-in-law, Lucy LeoGrande, Carmella Perkins, Elvira and Clarence Williams, Marie and John Carbone, and Rita Davis, all of Utica; a brother and sister-in-law, Serafino and Rosemary DeBernardis of Utica; and her many nieces, and nephews, with special acknowledgment of her late sister Anna Frances Cicigline’s children and grandchildren with whom Teresa held a special bond: Vincent Cicigline, Roseanne King, Linda Pulaski, Patricia Abraham, and Lucien Cicigline; her great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and her sister-in-law, Angeline Grasso of Florida. Teresa was blessed with many lifelong friends and very special relationships of more than fifty years with Mae and Rock Galimo and their daughters Gina, and Julie; Angelo and Lucy Simone; and Patty Creswell and Marie Nitti and their families. She was predeceased by her sisters and brother-in-law, Anna Frances and Lucien Cicigline, and Linda Lowery; her brothers and sister-in-law, John DeBernardis, and Anthony F. and Amelia DeBernardis; her in-laws, Frank and Grace Russo, Joseph LeoGrande, Salvatore Noti, Sean Davis, Herb Perkins, John and Carmella Russo, George and Mary Bonamassa and Mike Grasso; and a very special niece and inseparable friend, Carol Sinker.

The family wishes to express their gratitude for the care and friendship provided to Teresa “Lola”, as Teresa was fondly referred to by the staff at the Charles T. Sitrin Healthcare Center.

Visitation will be held Friday (today) from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. The Ladies Auxillary of the Knights of St. John Commandery #321 will assemble for Ritualistic Services at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Teresa's funeral service will commence on Saturday morning at 9:30 from the funeral home and at 10:30 from St. Anthony of Padua Church, where her Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

"While she has never driven a car,  
she always managed to be the driving force."  
"She was a woman without a formal education,  
yet she inspired so many with her wisdom."

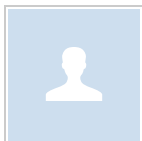
# Tribute Wall



“ To Carmella Perkins and to the families of Teresa,  
Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to you all.  
Carm, We know you just lost Herbie and now your sister. Our Lord  
will give you the strength to pull thru this difficult time I'm sure. We  
just want you to know you are in our thoughts and prayers.  
Love,  
Rachael Ann and Del###imported-begin##Rachael Ann & Del  
Dealing###imported-end##

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August 19, 2007 at 11:18 PM



“ Bertie,  
I am so sorry about your Mom. I know she was a very special  
person. Please extend my sympathy to your sisters and brothers.  
Love,  
Patty Zammiello###imported-begin##Patty Zammiello###imported-  
end##

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August 19, 2007 at 11:39 AM



“ Casey, Audra and Family,  
I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your grandmother. Your  
family is in my thoughts and prayers. I can understand what you are  
going through right now as my grandmother passed away a few  
weeks ago at the end of July. Just wanted to let you know that I am  
thinking about you and your family.###imported-begin##Mandie  
Warmuth###imported-end##

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August 17, 2007 at 10:20 PM



“ Johnny, Sam, Lucy, Dolores, Bertie and Families

*Marie called on Wednesday and all she said was "Johnny Russo called" - and I knew. Our profound sympathy to you and your families for your loss. There are so many memories - the bakery in your garage with all the wonderful aromas; the food like the little pastene soup with egg and, of course, all of your Mom's Italian dishes; tapping on the bathroom window for phone calls you got for my Mom - but the one memory that always comes to the forefront for me is when she stormed across the street to the school yard one morning when we were playing dodgeball during gym (I was about 9 yrs. old) and took my arm, waved off the gym teacher and said I'd be right back and brought me inside your house so I could take out the tissues I had padded my training bra with (I was a very late bloomer!) then marched me back to school, much to my embarassement. You know I never did that again! Ole' Eagle Eyes, she saw everything! My husband met her at Marie and Dick's 25th Anniversary party - she just grabbed him up and took him on the dance floor (all 4' nothin' of her to his 6'2") to dance with him. About halfway through the dance, she turned to me and kicked her foot and off came her shoe - I caught it! She laughed that laugh and kicked her other foot and I caught that shoe, too! Whenever I talked about her, Ron says, "That's the lady that danced barefoot with me!". She was my Mom's best friend, my sister and my second Mom, my Godmother from Confirmation and a treasure to our family. We'll miss her. Our love to you all.##imported-begin##Patty Creswell (DeMarco) & husband Ron##imported-end##*

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August 17, 2007 at 05:58 PM



“ Ms. Russo leaves behind a wonderful, loving family, which is the most powerful legacy a life can leave.  
With love especially for Lucy Nickel on behalf of Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church,  
Jake Morrill###imported-begin###Jake Morrill###imported-end##

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August 17, 2007 at 01:13 PM



“ Casey & family, We are very sorry for your loss. Your grandmother sounded like a wonderful woman. Your family is in our thoughts.###imported-begin###Rob & Nicole Acey###imported-end##

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August 17, 2007 at 08:58 AM



“ John, Sam, Lucy and all the Russo Family, I will never forget your Mom's smile and the way she made everyone feel like you were always welcomed. Growing up on Jay Street with such nice people as your parents are memories that I will always cherish. May her soul rest in peace. Paul Mangano###imported-begin###Paul Mangano###imported-end##

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August 17, 2007 at 07:56 AM



“ My deepest sympathy during this time. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.###imported-begin###Kristen Humphrey###imported-end##

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August 16, 2007 at 09:15 PM



“ I have truly adored Teresa for as far back as I can remember. As a small child I remember thinking how lucky my cousin's Stacy, Russ, and Adam were to have such a wonderful grandmother. Then as I grew a little older and a little wiser I realized I was just as lucky - because I came to see that Teresa loved and cared about me too - I realized that she loved and cared about everyone in her life. That was what she lived to do. I will always cherish the times I was able to sit and visit with Teresa - especially the times we would get together to bake what seemed like thousands of cookies at Aunt Doe's house! Teresa would help us turn dough into delicious cookies, and all the while she would be either singing, telling corny jokes, reminiscing about her younger and sometimes "wilder" days, or endlessly adoring and playing with my children. These days will remain a vibrant part of my memory forever and she will be dearly missed when we bake cookies once again. I will always remember her spunk, her crazy sense of humor, her endless "words of wisdom," her sweet smile, and her contagious laugh. But the thing I will remember the most is what I admire her most for, and that is her endless commitment and love for her family. I can only pray that I will be the kind of mother and eventually grandmother and great-grandmother that Teresa was to her family.

My deepest sympathies go out to my Aunt Doe, Uncle Billy, Stacy, Jim, Russ, Adam, Zach & Bryce, as well as the rest of Teresa's family. I placed this message in hopes that sharing some of my memories and thoughts of Teresa will help bring a smile to your face as you try to get through this difficult time. God Bless.##imported-begin##Cheri (Stockton) Van Etten##imported-end##

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August 16, 2007 at 07:35 PM



“ Sam,

*So sorry for the loss of your mother.##imported-begin##Jayne Baran##imported-end##*

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August 16, 2007 at 02:36 PM



“ *Dear Bertie and family,*

*So sorry to hear of the lost of your mother & Grandmother she was a wonderful woman who always had a smile on her face.*

*Sorry I can't be there with you during this difficult time but will be on vacation, know that you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Love, Elaine and family##imported-begin##Elaine (Perritano) Geary##imported-end##*

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August 16, 2007 at 08:50 AM



“ *I am soo sorry to hear about the loss of such a wonderful lady. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.*

*Grandma Russo you will never be forgotten. Rest in peace.*

*Love,*

*Allison##imported-begin##Allison Trevisani##imported-end##*

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August 15, 2007 at 10:10 PM