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SISTER JOANNA PAOLELLA, ASCJ



Sr. Joanna Paoella (Joanna Marie Paoella) died peacefully on May 30, 2026 at Sacred Heart Manor, Hamden, CT. She was 81 years old and professed as an Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for 60 years. Sr. Joanna, daughter of the late Alfred and Mildred (Gambardella) Paoella, was born on August 28, 1944, in New Haven, CT. Sr. Joanna entered the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on August 25, 1963 in Hamden, CT. She professed First Vows on August 22, 1966 and Perpetual Vows on August 21, 1971 in Hamden, CT.

Sr. Joanna (previously known as Sr. Mary del Val) was the beloved sister of Gerald (Nancy) and Leonard (Lucia); the late Fred, Jr.; (Tammy) Paoella, and the late Jay (Cindy) Paoella. She was a beloved aunt of Julianne, Deana, Kristin, Michael, Tara, Christopher and Dylan. Sr. Joanna is also lovingly remembered by her religious family, the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and by her many cousins and friends.

Sr. Joanna received a BA in History from St. Louis University and an MS in American Studies from Fairfield University. She began her ministry in Catholic education as a teacher at St. Ambrose School in St. Louis, MO in 1967. After having taught in CT at Sacred Heart Academy for 9 years, she served as a formation directress before becoming an elementary school administrator serving in Tampa, FL; Bridgeport, CT and St. Louis, MO. Later, Later, she helped to initiate a preschool at Queen of Apostles in Imperial, MO, and then served as the administrator of Queen of Apostles Spirituality Center. Sr. Joanna began assisting at Sacred Heart Manor in 2013, where she eventually retired and faithfully fulfilled her mission as an Apostle Adorer. Sr. Joanna is remembered for her great kindness and thoughtfulness to others. She was an energetic and creative worker, willing to take on any task.

The wake for Sr. Joanna Paoella will take place on June 5, 2026 at Sacred Heart Manor Chapel, 261 Benham St., Hamden, CT from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on June 6, at Sacred Heart Manor Chapel at 10:00 a.m. followed by burial at All Saints Cemetery, North Haven. Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Sr. Joanna Paoella to the retirement fund of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 295 Benham Street, Hamden, CT 06514. The IOVANNE FUNERAL HOME, INC. is in care of her arrangements.