



Marie Calabretta

July 2, 1934 - November 9, 2007

Mom's Story

Born July 2nd 1934, Marie was a lifelong resident of the East Side of Buffalo. As a child, she was most happy when she was able to comb the beaches of Woodlawn and Hoover with family and friends. As an adult, she fell in love with Nicholas. They were married on New Years' Eve 1956. Fifty years ago this past December they enjoyed their wedding reception at the original Salvatore's family restaurant on East Delavan Avenue.

A daughter of Norman and Isabelle (Bantle) Muehlbauer, she was the elder sister of Audrey (Robert) Luksch. Marie was a devoted and beloved mother of 5 children, Maria (Timothy) Zwack, Nicholas (Lisa), Mark (Mary), Tammy (Timothy) Lyman, John (Karrie), beloved grandmother of Brian, Julee, Justyna, Michael, Dylan, Corinne, Cassidy, and the great-grandmother of

Alyssa and Grace.

While her children were growing up, Marie often became an elected and re-elected officer of the St. Lawrence Mothers' Club. She was instrumental in helping to coordinate many activities and fundraisers over the years. She received and deserved the coveted "Mother of the Year" award- not once but twice. She worked at Bishop Turner High School as a cafeteria worker until the school closed in 1984. For several years Marie worked at St. Lawrence Church where she was a full-time Pastor's assistant. She performed such duties as cooking for the parish priests and their guests, doing their laundry, cleaning the rectory and her favorite activity- food shopping with Gino. She loved this job and was very proud to work there. She had several close friends who were devoted to working for St. Lawrence, both paid and volunteer, in promoting the social as well as spiritual aspects of parishioner life.

Marie was the inaugural director of a successful St. Lawrence Sunday night Bingo. She held this position for several years. Throughout the years, Marie and other devoted parishioners worked very hard to coordinate several fun-filled evenings such as the infamous "Italian Night" and "German Night". For these efforts and more, Marie was a recipient of the distinguished St. Joseph the Worker award in 1981. Her proud family attended the award ceremony at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Buffalo.

In 1974, Marie trained to become one of the original Crisis Services "on-call advocate" volunteer team members. She counseled victims of rape and

sexual assault at what was then known as E.J. Meyer Memorial Hospital (now ECMC). After recently receiving her drivers' license, her oldest daughter remembers being awakened in the middle of the night to drive her mother to Meyer Memorial to help those in crisis.

When she found some free time, Marie loved her backyard. She tended to several rose bushes of every color. No matter what else was going on in her life, Marie always had a fragrant rosebud in bloom or two in a vase on her kitchen table.

In 1972, Marie was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease. Most thankfully, great strides have been made in the treatment of Crohn's and other diseases of the digestive system. During these 35 years, Marie had undergone numerous life-saving, reconstructive surgeries that enabled her to live a full life. She inspired those who knew her greatly. To all who knew and loved her, Marie demonstrated a level of endurance that would test the very limit of the human body and spirit. She greatly respected and loved all of her doctors, several of whom have pre-deceased- most recently, Dr. Harvey Goldstein. She often spoke of these physicians fondly and often as if they were family.

Clearly, throughout 35 years of chronic illness, Marie's faith sustained her. Propelled her. Anointed her. Always she was inspired by the lives of the saints and the presence of angels as evidenced throughout her home. She held a deep devotion to all that was spiritual and Catholic although she held those

beliefs as very private and reverential.

Most recently, Marie succumbed to the final stages of cardio-pulmonary disease (COPD) due to smoking cigarettes since she was a teenager. Occasionally, she would make an attempt to quit, but was always drawn back to the addictive power of nicotine. On the day before she died, one of Marie's last requests was asking for a cigarette.

In the name of all that is healthful and in her true style of grace and always with dignity, we ask that your generosity be directed to organizations that were important to Marie: Meals on Wheels, Hospice Buffalo, St. Lawrence Parish, the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Western New York, Paralyzed Veterans Association or an American Veterans program of your choice.

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Tribute Wall

NA “ *Incredible site!*,

name - May 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NA “ *Give somebody the to a site about the,*

name - May 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NA “ *best for you,*

name - May 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NA “ *Where it is possible to buy the,*

name - May 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NA “ *I bookmarked this guestbook.,*

name - May 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NA “ *Real,*

name - May 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NA “ *Thank you,*

name - May 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ *Great site. Keep doing.,*

name - May 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ *Help me to find the,*

name - May 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ *Nice,*

name - May 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ *Perfect work,*

name - May 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *I hope your family feels better soon. Lord, may shw watch down on you!*

Alyssa W. - December 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *Even though she died 3 years ago i still cry when i hear her name.*

Alyssa Smith - December 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *Please accept my sincere sympathy for your loss. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers. Always remember your lovely times with Marie.*

John Bozan - November 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ We offer our sincere sympathy and prayers to you on the loss of your loved one. I am sure that Marie will be missed my many.

Silvio and Maria Dato - November 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ SINCERE SYMPATHY AND KIND THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS TIME.

KATHIE FRANKOWSKI - November 16, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Marie you will be truely missed by all. As a former bingo coworker, selling extra golds every sunday night with you & my mom. You will always be in our hearts forever!!!

Joanne Donahue(Frankowski) - November 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ You are in my thoughts and prayers. You will be very much missed.

Robert Frankowski - November 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

EP

“ So sorry about Marie. I will always remember the fun times we had at Bingo and St. Lawrence Mothers Club. Marie was always smiling and caring.

Eileen Phillips - November 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Dear Maria and Tim,
Now Marie will be able to watch over you from a seat in the upper deck. Here's a wish for better times to come.*
Don

Don Biddlecombe - November 13, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *NICK,
MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. SHE WILL BE MISSED. I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HER AND THE TIMES I SHARED WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.*

*LOVE ALWAYS
DONNA*

DONNA REICHERT - November 13, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ *Nick & Family,
We are so sorry to hear about the passing of Marie. She was a wonderful woman who loved her family, worked hard, and knew how to have fun. I cherish our times together working at St. Lawrence. Especially, our special "Sunday Night Bingo Crew", sadly of which so few remain. May you find peace knowing Marie has a place in heaven as well as living on in the hearts of so many she touched.*

Chris & Paul Przybysz - November 13, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ TO THE CALABRETTA FAMILY.

I wish to offer my condonlence of the loss of your loved one,may the good lord above give you all the strenght you need now to continue your life as she would have wanted you to do .

if you ever need some one to talk with i will be here for you.

my deepest regards

mr.raymond b. byers

76 bridgeman street

buffalo,n.y 14207

RAYMOND B. BYERS SR. - November 13, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ *Tammy and Timmy,*

Patsy - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ *Tammy and Timmy, Our deepest heartfelt sympathy for your loss. Our prayers are with you and your family.*

Patsy, Pat - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *Dear Calabretta family,*

What a wonderful tribute to a tremendous woman...your mom's life seemed rich and full of blessings, which she generously shared.

God bless her soul.

Mark and Carol Russell - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ Dear Nick, Maria, Nick, Mark, John and family,
I am so sorry about your Moms passing. I feel so bad that so much time has passed since I've seen anyone from one of the best neighborhoods ever. I'll always have fond memories of my childhood on Edison. Maria (one of my bestest friends as a kid) I think about you alot and how I'd love to talk to you and get together sometime. That would be great! Know that my thoughts and prayers are with yiu all at this sad time.
Love,
Donna

Donna Bernardo Vitale - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Dear Maria & Family,

Michael & I are thinking of you and your family in the loss of your dear mother. You are in our prayers.

Michael & Brenda Paulk - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Nick and Family - So sorry to hear of Marie's passing. She truly was a great lady. And I feel very honored to have had Marie for my Confirmation Sponsor back in 1957.

Doris (Maher) Biegaj - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Nick and Family

Doris (Maher) Biegaj - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ *Maria and Tim,
I am so sorry for your loss. Just know that God has a hard working
angel on His side now.*

Diane

Diane Jones - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *Tammy, Tim, and Family
My condolences to all of you. You are all in my thoughts and
prayers.*

Karen Donner - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ *Sorry for your loss*

Moises Negron - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ *Sorry for your loss.*

Guy Beaton - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RV

“ *Maria: Was sad to read about your Mom's passing. It is one of the
greatest heartaching experiences you have in life. Your family is in
my prayers.*

*Peace,
Roseann*

Roseann VanDette-Barthelemy - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Maria and her family.*

*Sincerely,
Cindy Chase and Eddy Labuckas*

Cindy Chase - November 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Mr.C and Family,
You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Remember Mr.C if there is
anything you need don't be afraid to ask.
Barb*

Barb Drzal Wilson Farms - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ *Nick and family,
You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I will always remember all
the good times over the years. Till we meet again!!!! Bernice*

Bernice Tower - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *She was the best grandmother a granddaughter could ever ask for.
She was always there for me and for others, spiritually and in her
presence. You could never stop learning from her and her morals.
Our memories together are countless; our love was undefined.
Everyone that knows her only has fond memories of her. I feel
honored to have been her granddaughter.*

Corinne Calabretta - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ We both will remember all the great times we had with Marie while we were all members of St. Lawrence Parish. She was a wonderful and caring person.

Ed & Cookie Camardo - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ It is not going to be the same with out you I will really miss you around here!!!!

Amber Mascio - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KI

“ Dear Nick and Family,
We are so sorry to hear of your Moms passing. Heaven has received and angel. I only knew of your Mom through you and never had the pleasure of knowing her in person, yet the write up that is provides lets one know what an amazing person God let us know and walk this earth. You must be so proud to have the parents that were chosen for your family. Remember all the wonderful memories and her unconditional love of her family. May God give you peace.

Kim - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ I will miss you very much. It's been a pleasure to know you.I really enjoyed your company.

Doris Lyman - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Our deepest sympathy to Nick and Maria and Tim, Nick and Lisa, Mark and Mary, Tammy and Tim, and John and Karrie and all their family. We regret not being able to see Marie before she passed but respectfully know that this is what she wanted. She was a great lady and we will miss her. Love, Bud and Diane

diane bantle - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Nick and family, we are saddened to read about Marie's passing. We have many bingo night memories with her. She will be sadly missed.

John and Shirley Bisci - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Nick & Family, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Marie. I have fond memories of the times we all spent together. With all the good Marie did in her life she is for sure at the right hand of The Father above, still watching over you all. Stay strong as she would have wanted you all to be.

Mike Lafferty - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Oh this news saddens me so much! Marie was like a second Grama to me :) All the while I was growing up on Edison Ave. Marie was a MAINSTAY there!! I am so sorry to hear about her passing and wish that I could be there for you all!

Molly Lafferty - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Tammy,
We are thinking about you and your family. Peace and love to all.
Your mom sounds like she was a great woman.*

Sue and Cara - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM