**Eulogy for Sr. Mary Louise Gossin**

**September 22, 2020**

**Sr. Rosemary Higgins**

**In February 1934 God gave a beautiful gift to Harry and Margaret Gossin. Her name was Mary Louise. This little girl grew up with five brothers, a sister and parents who loved her. After finishing high school she wanted to share that love, so in 1952 she entered the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany. She continued the long tradition of other holy women from Utica who followed the Mohawk River toward the Allegheny Mountains.**

**Sr. Mary Louise was a teacher and principal for almost 30 years in New York and New Jersey. However, she had a hidden talent which was not discovered until 1983 when she became the secretary of the Area II Coordinator. During the following years she was the secretary of three Regional Ministers. She was very confidential and so good at organizing the information for a meeting that she made the Regional Ministers look and feel as though they were prepared for anything that would be discussed at the meeting.**

**During some of those years she was given the opportunity to go home to Utica to care for her mother during her illness. She must be so happy to be with her mother whom she loved.**

**In 2004 Mary Lou wanted to continue helping others, so she spent some time volunteering in parishes in New York. Then in 2008 she decided to officially retire at the Motherhouse.**

**As time went on she became very inquisitive. Whether you were a member of the staff or a visitor, you would receive a battery of questions such as, “What is your name?”, “Are you married?”, “Are you Catholic?” and “Do you have children?”. So, I wonder where we are going to get our information now that she is not here to ask the questions.**

**There are so many more fond memories of how Mary Lou shared her love.**

**Mary Lou, may you enjoy the eternal peace in the presence of the God who loves us.**