



Marita B. Mattei

November 14, 1938 - January 5, 2021

Marita passed away the afternoon of January 5, 2021, her family surrounding her with love.

She is survived by brothers Christopher Barnes and Frank Wilczynski and family, children Edamarie, Tory and Nanette Mattei, son-in-law Kris Colby, daughter-in-law Christine Mattei, and grandchildren Kiernan, Tolly and Desmond Colby and Christian, Lindsey and Andrew Mattei and loving nieces and nephews.

One of her grandchildren described what it was like to be with Marita this way: 'No matter how annoying you could be, Marmee (as she was known to her grandchildren) would never consider you lesser than anyone, or a pest. She liked to invite troublesome people into her heart because she had the natural gift of unconditional love and sympathy. She dedicated her life to understanding everyone because no one was unworthy of love to Marmee.'

Marita was a Jersey Girl to her core. She grew up at the edge of the woods in Clementon, NJ and learned to love trees and nature playing in the forest. Her father awakened her every morning singing 'What a beautiful morning, what a beautiful day' up the stairs to her bedroom. Her grandmother, aunts and uncles treasured and supported her, buying different pieces of her Easter outfit when her parents couldn't afford to, taking her to ball games and the

theater. She learned to love art and fine furniture through her father whose business was restoring antiques, and to volunteer in the community and help others through her mom.

Marita is a graduate of Camden Catholic High School (1956). In a generation when many women didn't go to college, let alone graduate school, Marita was the first person in her family to do both. She graduated from The College of Notre Dame (1960), the first Catholic college for women, and Rutgers University School of Social Work.

She met her husband, Vic (married April 4, 1964) at a dance and immediately knew he was the right person for her because 'he was my exact opposite'. In her marriage and her life, Marita knew the strength that came from diversity and modeled the values of compromise and inclusion in her schools, communities and personal relationships.

Marita worked as a school social worker in Cinnaminson for 20 years. When she and her fellow social worker Jane Weilenbeck found that many families were struggling financially and needed support, Marita and Jane began organizing donations of food and clothing for these families. As financial donations began to come in, Marita and Jane opened a bank account and when Jane died of cancer, Marita named the fund in honor of Jane. That fund is still active today. Marita's door was always open to students and she touched hundreds of lives. Even in retirement, she would be stopped frequently in Cinnaminson and thanked by people whose families she had helped through difficult times.

Marita was an active member of Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, and treasured time with her family, high school and college friends, her neighbors and her friends in Sewing Circle, The Famous Club, and the Romeo's and Juliet's.

Her children remember a house that was always full of their friends who came to play, often spending as much time talking with their mother as with them. She made everyone welcome and comfortable and, for many, helped them get through the toughest moments of their lives.

Marita will be remembered for being fully engaged with the people in her life, for her selflessness, her compassion, her understanding, her tolerance and strength. Above all, Marita built her world around making connections, understanding others, and helping those around her. Her gifts of love and presence live on in all the lives she has touched.

Up in heaven, Saint Anthony is taking a well-earned nap, knowing Marita is at peace with no more keys to lose. Toodle loo, Marmee. We love you and letting you go is so hard.

DONATIONS- In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to the Jane B. Weilenbeck Needy Family Fund. Donations can be made via Venmo: @JBW-Fund, or by check to the Jane B. Weilenbeck Needy Family Fund, Memorial School, 2195 Riverton Road, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: Edamarie, Nanette and Tory hope that friends and family will join them in a party to celebrate Marita's life after COVID restrictions are no longer needed. We will share details about the event in the future.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

JAN 11. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Cinnaminson
1200 Route 130 N
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
(856) 829-8000
info@givnish.com
<https://www.givnish.com>

Funeral Mass

JAN 11. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Charles Borromeo Church
2500 Branch Pike & Pomona Road
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Entombment

JAN 11. 12:00 PM (ET)

Lakeview Memorial Park
1300 Route 130 North
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Tribute Wall



“ *Givnish Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Marita B. Mattei*



Givnish Funeral Home - January 09, 2021 at 04:42 PM

RC

As Marita's colleague on the child study team, I remember her compassion and dedication to helping children and families in need of services. Marita was a valuable resource for the Cinnaminson community. I was fortunate to have many positive experiences with her. My deepest sympathy to Marita's family and friends. Bob Constantino

Robert Constantino - January 10, 2021 at 09:32 AM

SS

As a new resident of Cinnaminson, I met Marita through the child study team. She offered her guidance in navigating the system for my special needs child. Her kindness went beyond her job. I felt friendship and a genuine concern for my whole family. May good memories and the words of others give comfort to those that loved her.

Susan Schaeffer - January 13, 2021 at 09:18 AM



“ *Givnish Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Marita B. Mattei*



Givnish Funeral Home - January 08, 2021 at 08:49 AM



“ *Marita B. Mattei*

September 09, 2022 at 01:27 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She was a good friend of my Mom, Bunnie, and it is joyful to think about these friends greeting each other in heaven. Peace to you all. Sincerely, Tracie Burns*

Tracie Burns - February 04, 2021 at 04:20 PM



“ *Marita was always kind, caring and loving. I knew her while working in the Cinnaminson School District. She was very special to me and I'm sure the entire staff felt that way too. Marita was so gracious when she retired thanking everyone for the privilege of working with them. We all mourn her loss but are the lucky ones to have known her. God love you, Marita!*

Kathleen Smith - January 13, 2021 at 11:36 AM

JH

“ There is so much I could share about Aunt Marita, and will on our family deliciousmemories.com website. Here I would just like to say that I an certain Marita is resting in peace with Uncle Vic and all the heavenly hosts who I am sure are enjoying Marita's sparkling presence. We will all miss her and her beautiful, infectious smile.

Julie Hellebusch - January 11, 2021 at 11:29 AM

AS

“ Marita B. Mattei you had a beautiful soul, and your light is shown in your family legacy and was shared with all your friends. You opened your door to others and your smile and funny personality, and generosity was a blessing to all. May the door to heaven be open to you and may your shining light be bright forever.
The Smith's
Anne, WK, Ciara and Kian

Anne & WK Smith - January 11, 2021 at 10:21 AM

JM

“ Marita's light shines on through her beautiful family and all the other lives she impacted.
Sending our love, Jilly and Piyush

Jill Martin - January 11, 2021 at 12:01 AM

NA

“ *The world has been dimmed. Marita’s beautiful smile, her warmth, her generosity, her joyous laugh, her delight at the simplest things will be forever missed. For 60 years, I was extremely fortunate to have Marita as a close, dear wonderful friend. It was impossible to feel down in her company. She never had a harsh word for anyone. She was a kind, decent, honest selfless human being. We met at the Camden County Board of Social Services when we were both young caseworkers. Even then, Marita worked tirelessly to get her clients everything she could to improve their lives. During those years, she was studying for her master’s degree. She was on the brink of achieving that goal when her nearly completed dissertation was stolen from her Citroen. In spite of that enormous setback, she persevered, soldiered on and completed that hard earned degree. She will be missed by so many who admired her, respected her- even loved her. I’m wondering if a married woman can be a saint.*

Nadine - January 10, 2021 at 09:22 PM

TL

“ *You were our rock . You had so much love in your heart ; compassion and empathy like no other. In many ways you were the mother some of us wished for and we were so lucky to know and love you . May you dance in clouds with Vic ; I know you will be with us always. I love you Marita always*

Teresa Lane - January 10, 2021 at 09:07 PM

HP

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Hugo Paquet - January 10, 2021 at 04:12 PM

PA

Famille Blondaz - Gerard

Paquet/Blondaz-Gerard - January 11, 2021 at 01:36 PM

BL

“ *Toute notre famille s'associe à votre peine. Depuis 1983, nous avons partagé tellement de bons souvenirs avec Marita et Vic, à Cinnaminson ou à Sazilly. Chacun gardera Marita en mémoire sa bienveillance, sa générosité, sa joie de vivre et son empathie. Elle restera un exemple pour chacun de nous et nous sommes heureux de poursuivre cette amitié profonde construite entre nos familles et maintenant nos enfants Edamarie, Nanette et Tory nous pensons bien à vous.*

L.BLONDAZ-GERARD / A.X BLONDAZ-GERARD / I.G PAQUET / A.P DURAND

BLONDAZ-GERARD - January 10, 2021 at 03:30 PM

BL

“ 4 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



BLONDAZ-GERARD - January 10, 2021 at 03:27 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Marita B. Mattei.



January 10, 2021 at 02:25 PM

WD

“ *With love from Diana & Bill, Lisa & Dave* purchased the *Arrive in Style* for the family of Marita B. Mattei.



With love from Diana & Bill, Lisa & Dave - January 10, 2021 at 12:42 PM

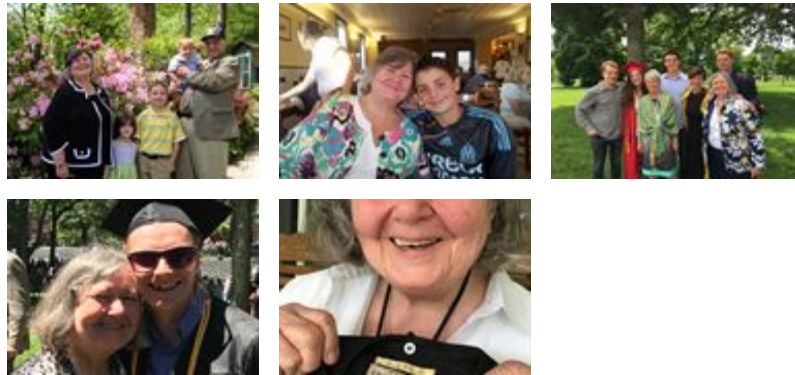
DM

“ As a special education teacher at Cinnaminson High school, I have many wonderful memories of Marita. She was always supportive and kind. She had a beautiful smile and an uplifting spirit. We worked together when the Jane Weilenbeck Fund was just beginning. "Death leaves a pain that nothing can heal. But love keeps the memories that nothing can steal." Praying for peace and comfort for her family . Diane McGough

Diane McGough - January 09, 2021 at 05:04 PM



“ 196 files added to the album LifeTributes



Givnish Funeral Home - January 09, 2021 at 04:40 PM

ST

“ I was Edamarie's Kindergarten teacher at New Albany School. At our first Parent/teacher conference, she asked me if Edamarie was normal. After I laughed I assured her that she was indeed a typical five year old. My sympathy to her family. She was a great colleague and friend Sylvia Hatcher Teahan.

Sylvia h Teahan - January 09, 2021 at 03:09 PM

AO

“ I only briefly met Marita at Nanette's 50th birthday party and it was clear to me that Marita was a kind, engaged and loving person. Her daughter embodies so many of the traits that are described in Marita's obituary- accepting of all people, feeling that everyone deserves love and kindness.
My deepest sympathies to her family and all those that loved her.
annette osnos

annette osnos - January 09, 2021 at 03:03 PM

EP

“ With deep sympathy in the passing of my dear adopted sister friend I will miss her beautiful smile and kindness to everyone she knew
Rest in the Lords hands in Heaven dear Marita Love Elizabeth Pildis

Elizabeth Pildis - January 09, 2021 at 02:02 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Marita B. Mattei.



January 09, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Marita B. Mattei.



January 09, 2021 at 12:01 PM

JR

“ *Judy Rogers purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Marita B. Mattei.*



Judy Rogers - January 09, 2021 at 11:16 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Marita B. Mattei.*



January 09, 2021 at 11:15 AM

KS

“ *I've known Marita proudly for over 17 years I loved her stories her laugh!! I met Mr Vic and Marita along with the Romeos and Juliets at Maurizio Ristorante many many years ago and there it started I could go and go on I'll be here always lol God Rest my sweet Love Kim and family*

Kim Sheltman - January 09, 2021 at 11:08 AM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Marita B. Mattei.*



January 09, 2021 at 10:01 AM

RM

“ We knew Marita in a couple of different roles. First as an incredibly supportive parent. It was not unusual for her to invite her children's teachers to her home for a thank you lunch. We benefited from her strong belief in the home/school partnership. As a colleague she was such a positive, insightful and strong advocate for children and an inspirational and wise resource for teachers and administrators. We are incredibly blessed to have known her in both roles. Our condolences to the family and may your memories bring you comfort and smiles.
Rose and Robert Maher

Rose and Robert Maher - January 08, 2021 at 07:28 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Marita B. Mattei.



January 08, 2021 at 07:03 PM

EC

“ I met Marita my first week of teaching at Rush School. For 34 years, she was my mentor for special children and taught me so much. She showed me the positivity not only in children, staff but ALL people. Her smile was contagious and I will miss my dear friend.

Rest In Peace, Marita.

Prayers and thoughts for Marita's family.

Esther Costantini

Esther Costantini - January 08, 2021 at 03:55 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Marita B. Mattei.*



January 08, 2021 at 02:00 PM



“ *Such a beautiful person whose heart was as big as her smile! Marita's kindness and empathy was felt by all. Truly, she was a role model for me and so many others. May the gates of heaven open wide to welcome her as she is reunited with her beloved Vic and so many others. Hopefully, she will feel the light that she gave to all of us as she enjoys her eternal reward.*

Susan M. Caccese - January 08, 2021 at 09:54 AM



“ *Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Marita B. Mattei.*



January 08, 2021 at 09:31 AM

RM

“ A wonderful human being so kind and gentle, she truly loved what she was doing and was truly loved by all she touched. It was an honor and a privilege to work with her and just to know her, I honestly never saw her without a big smile on her face!

Rest In Peace dear lady.

Rick Masi

Richard D Masi - January 07, 2021 at 11:39 PM

GM

“ Marita was a gift to so many students in the Cinnaminson School District. Her generous heart was a light to so many families in need. She was an inspiration. It was a privilege to have worked with her.

Gay Mocerri - January 07, 2021 at 11:13 PM

PB

“ I was fortunate to have known Marita and worked with her on the Cinnaminson Child Study Team. She was a caring and lovely person. She will be remembered and loved by many. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. Phyllis Blackeby

Phyllis Blackeby - January 07, 2021 at 08:34 PM