



Mary Jeannette "Prestley" Smith

January 14, 2011

Mary Jeannette (Prestley) Smith, age 72, died peacefully and gracefully at her Dublin home surrounded by loving family on Friday, January 14, 2011 after a two-year battle with cancer. Born July 8, 1938 in Ashtabula, Ohio, Mary graduated from Ashtabula High School in 1956, and received a bachelor's degree in education from The Ohio State University in 1960. She spent the first five years of her professional career in the Columbus Public Schools system as a kindergarten teacher, followed by 10 years in the Painesville Township School system, also teaching kindergartners, while raising her own family in Northeast Ohio with her beloved husband of 50 years, Francis C. Smith. She went on to receive a master's degree in childhood development and education in 1990 from The Ohio State University, graduating alongside her son as he received his undergraduate engineering degree. Mary selflessly devoted much of her adult life to the education of young children, including her own children as well as those in and around the communities in which she lived. From 1990-1998, she worked for the Franklin County Schools' Parents as Teachers Program, where she visited homes and taught moms and dads how to become better parents to pre-school aged children, educating them on the ways they could have a lasting impact during the crucial early developmental years of their child's life, from birth to three years old. She also was a devout Catholic who readily shared her love of the faith and its teachings with her family and all those around her. She was a founding member of Saint Cyprian Parish in Perry, Ohio. She also was an active

parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Madison, Ohio, where she served on the Parish Council. She and Francis participated in Marriage Encounter and in Catholic Renewal at Immaculate Conception, which Mary later led. They also participated in the Pre Cana ministry at Immaculate Conception, helping couples young and old, blend their love for each other with their love of the faith, thereby strengthening their marriages. Upon moving to Dublin in the 1980s, Mary became a founding member of Saint Brigid of Kildare Parish in Dublin. She was an active member of the Guitar Group in the infancy of the church, which led the parish in musical worship during weekly masses. Additionally, she was a member of the Dublin Singers, the Painesville Women's Synchronized Swimming Club (Aquanauts), The Ohio State University's President's Club, the Country Club at Muirfield, and the Ladies Auxiliary, Franklin Country Chapter of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE), where she held a one-year post as president. She also served at the Elizabeth Blackwell Center as a volunteer, bringing communion to recovering patients and supporting young mothers after delivery as they bonded with their newborns. While giving so much through education to the communities and children around her, Mary's greatest joy and the light of her eyes were her grandchildren. Being a part of their lives and watching their individual growth and development was an immense privilege for her. She especially relished celebrating alongside of them as they received their many sacraments within the church, another way she taught them God's love for them, while sharing her love for them at the same time. Preceded in death by her parents, father, John Stephen Prestley, Sr., and mother Elizabeth Mary (Votek) Prestley. Mary is survived by her constant companion and trusted friend, husband Francis C. Smith; three children, daughter Gretchen Peterson (Jamie) of Dallas, TX; daughter Rita Smith (David Franco), of Martinez, CA; and son Frederic Smith (Susan) of Dublin, Oh; Seven grandchildren: Madeline (19), Aaron (14) and Jacob (10) Peterson; Elizabeth (10) and John (5) Franco; and Emily (16) and Lucy (14) Smith; brother, John S. Prestley Jr. (Barbara) of Russellville, KY; brother-in-law,

George Smith (Gretchen), Longwood, FL; sister-in-law, Rita Jane Smith, Dublin; and many nieces and nephews. Family and friends may call from 2-4 & 6-8pm. WEDNESDAY at the RUTHERFORD FUNERAL HOME AT POWELL, 450 West Olentangy St., Powell, OH 43065 (614)-792-1471, where Prayer Service will be held at 7:30pm. (The funeral home is located on W. Olentangy St./Powell Rd./SR 750 ¼ mile east of Sawmill Parkway.) Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 11:00 a.m. THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011 at ST. BRIGID OF KILDARE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 7179 Avery Rd, Dublin, OH 43017 with The Reverend Mark Summers, Celebrant. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center, OH. If they choose, the family kindly suggests a memorial contribution to St. Brigid of Kildare School, 7179 Avery Rd., Dublin, OH 43017. Send condolences for the family to: www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Jeannette "Prestley" Smith*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Francis and family, I was so sorry to hear of your loss. My prayer is that your loving memories of your wife will strengthen you during this time. With deepest sympathy, Darryl Crossman*

Darryl Crossman - January 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Francis, Sorry to hear of you wife's passing. At Engineer's Club, Phil Hall told me they had gone to Mary's funeral. Russ*

Joanne and Russ Crouse - January 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are sorry to learn of the passing of Mary. Hopefully you have received great family and community support during this trying time. May the Lord comfort and guide you. Always Jim & Georgia*

Jim and Georgia McKibben - January 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Francis and family, please accept my condolences. My thoughts are with you and your family.*

Vui Chung - January 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ We are so sorry to learn that Mary lost her battle with cancer. She was such an accomplished lady and had such a loving family. You have our sympathy.

Lloyd and Ginger Williams - January 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ We were sorry to hear of the passing of Mary. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Jim and Doris Mcgrew - January 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Joan Herrmann, Anna Morrow - January 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Thinking of you at this time of sorrow. Our prayers are with you all.

John & Joanne Troy - January 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Our thought and prayers are with you at this time.

Jacqueline Fischbach - January 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Dear Francis & family, I was saddened to hear of your loss. May God bless Mary and may you find comfort knowing that others are thinking of you and that they care. In prayer and sympathy, Tamera Tandy

Tamera Tandy - January 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Dear entire Smith family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss of Mary. I know that she was such a great light in all of your lives. Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Claudia

Claudia Wilder - January 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ You don't know me, but I was drum major in the AHS Band, and graduated in 1956 also. I always thought very highly of MJ in school. I would have to say she was one of the very nicest classmates I had. I feel very badly to hear of her passing. My wife has had cancer, and my sister died of it, so I know how hard it is on the family. You all have my deepest sympathy. Bob Howe

Robert H. Howe - January 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

J"

“ Thinking of you

John H Finley "Buck" - January 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Francis, I just Wanted to express My Condolances. I Only met Mary twice while I was employed at B&N. She Was So Kind . She Struck Me as a Woman that did not judge a Person on Looks or Wealth. As I Read Her Obituary I realize What A Great Woman She Indeed Was.God Bless You and Her Memory.

Doreen Bates - January 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Francis (Pard)and family: So sorry to read of your loss. Our deepest condolences. Ed & Peg Raile

John (Ed) Raile - January 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WA

“ Dear Francis: I was so saddened to learn of Mary's death! I always enjoyed working with her and you so much. Mary's earlier professional life paralleled my wife's Lynn's, and Mary's warmth and nurturing ways were always evident. Please accept my deepest sympathy! Always remember the good times for they last forever. With kindest regards, Wayne & Lynn Asepy

Wayne & Lynn Aspey - January 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Thinking of you and your family during this difficult time.

Scott & Stacy Holliday - January 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ my heart goes out to Mary's family I am sure they will miss her very much, and Francis has been a very good Friend who I learn a lot from, May you find peace with your loss.

John W., and Angie Finley - January 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM