



Joan Therese Conway Lee

March 24, 1933 - April 7, 2020

Joan Therese Conway Lee, 87, died peacefully on April 7, 2020 in Novi, Michigan, of complications from dementia. She was born March 24, 1933 in Detroit, Michigan, the daughter of Marie Oberle Conway and Harold Conway. Joan was predeceased by all six of her siblings: Joseph, Robert, Thomas, twins Mary and Ann, and her twin John. Joan was the beloved wife of the late Marion Edgar Lee, whom she married on May 8, 1954. Marion died on June 28, 2004, shortly after their 50th wedding anniversary. She was the dear mother of Paula Lee, Danette (Ken Crawford) Lee, Donald (Karen) Lee, Rebecca (Andrew) Portnoy, David (Carolyn) Lee, Laura Lee, and Jennifer (Jonathan Gomes) Lee. She was a loving grandmother to Megan, Alex, Nathaniel, Elijah, Tess, Melissa, Matthew, Emma, Evan, Helen, Erin, CJ, Alaysia, Aliya, Ethan, and Allie, and great grandmother to Liam, all of whom survive her. Having nearly finished the prodigious work of raising her 7 children, including managing the family's budgeting and finances, Joan moved to the paid workforce in the mid-1980s. Her attention to detail, discretion, organizational skills, and writing ability led to a successful career as a legal secretary and, later, as an executive assistant to the director of Boysville of Michigan (now called Holy Cross Services). In retirement, she led a number of initiatives for the Fox Run Catholic Council, and served as editor of the Council's newsletter. In this work, she developed meaningful professional and personal relationships. In particular, Joan treasured her friendship with Ed Niemiec, sharing their faith, their love of movies, and attending Mass together often. Joan lived by her deep and abiding Catholic faith and special devotion to St. Therese of Lisieux. Quick with a pun and a snippet of song (from classic musicals to ad jingles), Joan laughed often and brought laughter to those around her. She was known for her baking. In retirement, she developed a love for travel and for slot machines. A Memorial Mass and celebration of Joan's life will be held at a later date. Interment will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Roseville, MI.

Donations in memory of Joan can be made to Holy Cross Services' foster care & children's services fund. Info here: <https://holycrossservices.org/how-can-you-help/online-donations/>.

Cemetery

Sacred Heart Cemetery

18430 Utica Rd.

Roseville, MI, 48066

Comments



“ Many wonderful childhood memories come to mind when I think of my visits to the Lee Family home. Mrs. Lee always offered a warm welcome & a cheerful heart. It was a special treat to enjoy one of her many baked cookies or cakes. She had a huge positive impact on many & we have been blessed to have spent time with her. Joan was a great friend to my parents and her kind & loving influence lives on.

Lucy

Lucy - July 14, 2021 at 03:07 PM



“ Joan Lee was a loving and kind woman who will surely be missed. I have great memories of summer family visits to the Lee home. There was always plenty of great food, conversation and friendship. The loss of ones parent is so difficult. May you be comforted by your wonderful family and the beautiful memories you all carry. May she rest in peace.

Amy Habib - July 13, 2021 at 11:01 PM



“ The memory of your Mother as a devoted wife and mother, an outstanding homemaker, (my Mom and Joan were role models for me); is a gift to you and yours. Joan was the right hand of Brother Francis at Boysville for many years, and she was a sterling friend to me. During the years of our friendship, Jack and I spent many happy hours with your parents and in later years Joan and I enjoyed many luncheons together. She will be sorely missed, however, her legacy lives on in all of you. God bless and keep you!

Love and prayers, Clare

Clare McAuliffe - July 13, 2021 at 06:55 PM



“ Rest in Peace Mrs. Lee, you raised an amazing family and lead a wonderful life. May you rest well now.



Suzanne Janik - April 29, 2020 at 10:48 PM



“ I am so happy that I got to meet Mrs. Joan Lee, Jennifer's mother and my son's mother-in-law a few years ago at Thanksgiving in Charlotte, NC. She was a sweet, caring and highly intelligent lady. What I remember most is her delicious baked rolls. Jennifer kept and will continue to keep this legacy going on for generations. My prayers are with the family. Rest in Peace Joan Lee.

Agnes Gomes - April 12, 2020 at 11:17 AM