

Anyone who would like to sign the online guestbook for Sr. Olympia may go to the Raisian Family Funeral Home website, www.raisianfuneralhome.com.



Sister Mary Olympia Cibelli, age 94, of Conneaut, Ohio, died Saturday evening, Feb. 28, 2009, at Hamot Medical Center in Erie, Pa. Sister Olympia was born Dec. 23, 1914, in Orsara di Pughia, Italy, the daughter of Donato and Anna (Buonassisi) Cibelli. She entered religious life on April 5, 1934, in Grottaferrata, Province of Rome, Italy, with the Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She took her Perpetual Vows on June 20, 1941. She began her vocation as a teacher in Foggia and taught for two years in Rome and eight years at the Piccolo Seminario, a boys' boarding school. Sister Olympia came to the United States at the request of the late Bishop James McFadden, whom invited the Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart to serve in the Diocese of Youngstown in November of 1949. Sister Olympia attended the then Youngstown College to validate her Italian teaching degree. She was assigned to Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in McDonald, Ohio, where she served more than 20 years before moving to Conneaut on August 5, 1970. Upon her arrival in Conneaut in 1970, Sister Olympia served as a teaching principal at St. Frances Cabrini School, a position she held until her retirement in 1987. Sister Olympia also served as a pastoral minister to the homebound for many years in the area. The Oblates' special charism is to pray for priests and help with every aspect of their work. Sister Olympia exercised this charism in her daily life as she pursued her ministry to the sick - doing her best and letting God do the rest. Sister Olympia loved to return to her homeland and traveled to Foggia, Italy, every three years. Sister Olympia was fortunate to have just returned from visiting her family in Italy this past December with Sister Jean Marie Squiric. While in Rome, she attended the Wednesday audience with the Pope at the Vatican, where she was personally greeted by Pope Benedict XVI. Sister Olympia was preceded in death by her parents; six brothers, Nicola Cibelli, Michele Cibelli, Biagio Cibelli, Giuseppe Cibelli, Daniele Cibelli and Fedele Cibelli; and five sisters, Grazia Marino, Maria Antonia Cibelli, Rocchina Michele, Anna Maria Bagarella and Rose Carmella Cederholm. Sister Olympia is survived by a brother, Mario Cibelli of Foggia, Italy; nephew, Rev. Rocco Marino of Foggia, Italy; niece, Sister Letizia of Hubbard, Ohio; many beloved nieces and nephews in Italy; two great-nieces in Florida; the Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Hubbard, Ohio; and all of her extended families of St. Mary/St. Frances Cabrini Parish. Calling Hours for Sister Olympia will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at St. Frances Cabrini Roman Catholic Church, 744 Mill St., Conneaut. Following calling hours, a Mass of Thanksgiving for the life of Sister Olympia will be celebrated at St. Frances Cabrini Church at 6 p.m. Fellowship will follow at St. Frances Cabrini School Hall following church services. In Youngstown, Ohio, visitation will take place at the Villa Maria Teresa Home, 50 Warner Road, Hubbard, Ohio 44425 on Thursday, March 5th, from 2 to 6 p.m. concluding with evening prayers. Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 6th, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 1125 Turin St., Youngstown, Ohio, with Monsignor John DeMarinis as celebrant. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery, 248 S. Bella Vista Ave., Youngstown, Ohio. Memorial contributions may be made to the Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart or St. Mary/St. Frances Cabrini Parish. Envelopes will be available at the Villa Maria Teresa Home, St. Frances Cabrini Church or the RAISIAN FAMILY FUNERAL HOME, 581 Harbor St., Conneaut, where arrangements are being handled. Sister Olympia said the following, "You do your best and God does the rest. I have loved every minute that I have been here, the people have been very helpful to me and my fellow sisters and

will do anything for us." Sister Olympia also noted that her name means "You are beautiful" in Italian.