

#### Tribute to Mom

"O sinner, be not discouraged, but have recourse to Mary in all your necessities.

Call her to your assistance, for such is the divine Will that she should help in every kind of necessity."

- *Saint Basil the Great*

Mom lived her life for God, her family, her social responsibilities in that order

She believed in and lived preparing for eternity.

This was the focus of her life and the prayer she had for her children and grandchildren.

Mom loved and offered her prayers to the Blessed Virgin,

asking that she intercedes to her Holy Son Jesus--- for the guidance and protection of her family.

We all know the mantle of protection the Blessed Virgin has had on our lives through Gramma Bernadette's prayers.

Even in loss, disappointment and discouragement Gramma believed that Goodness would prevail, and our lives would recover.

So for mom to pass so peacefully to eternal life in this month of October, dedicated to our Holy Mother, seems so fitting.

I imagine it was a beautiful transition for mom to be so close to her Holy Mother.

Bernadette was born, south of Norquay, at the farm home of her parents, George and Lena Martyniuk on June 5, 1934.

She was delivered by a local midwife, in the middle of the depression.

Bernadette was the youngest daughter of the family consisting of 8 boys and 4 girls.

Mom attended school at North Willow Grove, not far from her farm home. She loved school and school sports, often talking about the field meets and ball games that were played.

She also talked about her brothers and their excellent mentorship in driving and shooting. Mom always had a 22 rifle at hand and often amazed her grandsons at her keen and accurate shot if she needed to keep critters and varmints away from her bird feeders.

Mom drove a vehicle at an early age, taking her elderly mother for visits and appointments.

She even told stories of unknowingly being sent by her brothers to pick up supplies for the secret distillation they were making!