



350 Bernardsville Road  
Mendham, NJ 07945  
March 5, 2008

Dear Sisters and Companions of Pauline,

It is with great sadness that we acquaint you with the sudden death of Companion of Pauline, Ruth Saenger, a member of the "Mendham branch" on the vine of Companions.

The obituary which appeared in the Morris Daily Record states most of what I would want to share with you. The headlines read: **W. Ruth Saenger, 78, homemaker, community leader; a lay member of the Sisters of Christian Charity at Mallinckrodt Convent in Mendham.**

The obituary continued: "W. Ruth Saenger died in her sleep at home in Mendham on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008, after a 10-month battle with breast cancer. Mrs. Saenger was a resident and active citizen of Morris County for more than 50 years. Ruth is survived by her husband, Jack; two daughters, Ruthann of Alexandria, Va.; and Laraine of Boonton, NJ.

Born on July 23, 1929, in Hoboken, she was the daughter of members of the first generation of German immigrants, Johnannes and Herta Luhmann. She graduated from Demarest High School and worked for two years as a secretary for Home Insurance Company in New York City. She also was highly active in the city's theater guild, playing the lead role in "The Philadelphia Story."

In 1953, she married her high school sweetheart, John V. Saenger, with whom she recently celebrated their 55th Emerald Wedding Anniversary on Jan. 25, 2008. They were married at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hoboken on Jan. 25, 1953. The newlyweds began their new life as a couple and started their family when they lived in the former apartment brownstones of the Sinatra family in Hoboken. In 1954 and 1956, she gave birth to her daughters, Ruthann and Laraine, respectively. In January of 1957, she and her husband, Jack, moved to Rockaway in Morris County, where they continued to raise their family. She lived out the American Dream with her husband Jack and two daughters in Florham Park, where she became active in the town's growing community. She served on the steering committee to build the Florham Park Public Library; was a member of the PTA; and served on the Hanover Park High School Band Council... As a conscientious corporate wife, she supported her husband in his work as a vice president with Warner-Lambert Pharmaceutical



Co., and moved with her husband when he was transferred to Puerto Rico to build one of its manufacturing plants. Following that assignment, she moved back to the States with her husband in 1976, and settled in Mendham Township, later residing in Brookside, and finally in Mendham...”

Several of her activities were mentioned: president of the Brookside Women's Club; singing with the Brookside Bells as a charter member for 26 years; serving on Mendham's Welcome Wagon committee; teaching religious education for 8 years and serving as a Eucharistic minister for 15 years; as a moderator for a unit of Rainbows for God's Children, a group devoted to children affected by bereavement and/or divorce; and finally a Companion of Pauline for eleven years...”

At the Mass of Resurrection and Christian Burial celebrated at St. Joseph Church Mendham, her husband did the second reading and also spoke in eulogy: “In our 55 years of married life, Ruth was a perfect helpmate, a beautiful mother and homemaker. She gave our children an appreciation for music and always kept the home fires burning. Her greatest joy was hosting family gatherings. I can look back on so many good times and how she shared the burdens of others. Let us support one another in her memory.”

Why did Ruth desire to become one of the first Companions of Pauline in the Mendham area? In her own words, “To strengthen my spiritual life with the Lord. The SCC/Lay Associate program offers with prayer and devotion to the Blessed Mother and to Mother Pauline.” Those of us who knew her personally agree that from all outward appearances, she did indeed deepen her relationship with the Lord, our Blessed Mother and Mother Pauline, who all certainly welcomed her warmly into the heavenly kingdom. In the concluding words of Msgr. Anginoli's homily, he said of Ruth, “She is whole and is singing with the angels, just as she did with the Brookside Belles, and is looking down on us. We believe there is something greater and better. And there Our Lord says, “Ruth, I have been waiting for you.”

In the name of all our Sisters and Companions, I extend our deepest sympathy to Jack, Ruthann and Laraine and know that you will continue to keep Ruth and the family in your prayers.

With love and prayer,

*Sister Joseph Spring, S.C.C.*

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