



Theresa Oppedisano Cavaleri

July 13, 1937 - March 19, 2021

Theresa Oppedisano Cavaleri (“Mother Theresa”) died Friday, March 19, 2021, age 83, at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born and raised in Albany, N.Y.

She was the daughter of the late Mary (Mustari) and Dominic Oppedisano. Theresa was predeceased by her husband, Nicholas, and is survived by daughters Antonietta Renzi (Patrick), Vincenzina LaCosta (Robert); sons, Francesco (Claudia Rivera Domani), Domenico, Michael, and Anthony; a sister, Rosemary Looney (William) and brother, Philip Oppedisano (Darlene Katz); 18 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren, and her sister-in-law, Maria Cavaleri Cavone. Theresa is also survived by 39 nieces and nephews as well as too many cousins to count.

Theresa and her husband, Nicholas, were the proud owners of Cavaleri’s Restaurant - an Albany institution and Capital District landmark. It was frequented by wonderful families, neighborhood folks, politicians, and celebrities.

Theresa will be remembered for her strong faith, generosity, love of family, music and, of course, her exceptional cooking.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday March 27, at 11:00

am at Mater Christi Church, 40 Hopewell St., Albany. Masks and social distancing will be required. Relatives and friends are invited and may also call at the Church Saturday morning from 9 am to 11 am. To view Mrs. Cavaleri's funeral by way of live stream please visit [youtube.com/c/parishofmaterchristi](https://www.youtube.com/c/parishofmaterchristi) Interment Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to: Community Hospice, 445 New Karner Rd. Albany, New York 12205 or HUGS USA, a non-profit organization that helps lower income seniors and the underprivileged to which Theresa was strongly committed. HUGS USA, P.O. Box 1754 New York, New York 10101.

Mother Theresa,

You taught us that we have two hands one to take and one to GIVE...

My Hands -These Hands - Our Hands - are YOUR Hands...

When we were born, we were all born with our tiny hands, your hands. Your hands taught us love and kindness and how to share.

Your love flowed from your hands into ours as you took our small hands in yours and guided them through childhood, teenager years, through adulthood and will for the rest of our lives.

You held our hands, kissed our hands and washed them (like a million times probably), through our hands your hands, you both , mom and pops have taught us to use them in many ways, how to give and feel love and help those around us and to help ourselves.

These hands – our hands – are your hands they are very powerful they give us strength, hope and the will to persevere.

When we give to others with our hands, we are giving with your hands as well. You taught our small hands how to make this world a better place – and now our big hands and my huge hands are hopefully making a difference. Whether it be teaching students with special needs who do not have a voice like

Anntonitte or helping and loving all the animals that would have probably be in attendance on Noah's Ark with, my sister Vin's unconditional love. Through both my sisters' work---their hands, your hands, the both of you are present.

If we talk about Frank and Dominick - to me best chefs in the world - You must talk about the undeniable ways they use their hands. Food is love. Through your hands their hands have prepared food for thousands of people. The art of cooking, sharing and giving food, just like you both, continue today and you are with them at every moment.

Mike has an unbelievable knowledge of computers, video cameras, iphones ipads and i-whatever. He uses the hands that you've given him guiding him along the way. Through Mike's talent he has always been there to help someone who may not have the experience with technology, and you both were present.

Whether our hands are helping the less fortunate, the homeless and yes even maybe a stranger who lost his way - your hands are there as well helping too. These hands - our hands - are your hands.

We remember the endless hours and countless days that you both worked so hard with your hands to carve out a better life for the six of us. By doing so it inspires us to persevere when things get difficult and obstacles seem too tough.

We need only to look right in front of us at our hands - your hands - and they give us strength, courage and the ability to get back on up

We look at our hands and understand the great sacrifices you both have made for us and it encourages us to emulate you both.

Your hands not only taught ours how to work, but also how

to love and play!

Music, games and fun flow through our hands with ease. Plus, it would be almost impossible to speak without using them! You taught our hands how to

emphasize our words and make them more powerful by waving them around as we talk!

Whether we are shaking the hands of Presidents, governors or mayors - it's your hands shaking them as well.

The dreams of your hands flowed into ours and continue to flow out through your grandchildren, great grandchildren and into the world.

When we are meeting movie stars, directors or athletes - your hands are there with us meeting them as well

You taught us how to pray with our hands for a better world, for the sick and the less fortunate, and, yes, years ago we would pray for a lot of snow just to have a day off from school.

Because of your lessons, unselfishness, unconditional love, the examples you both displayed and of course your hands - we will continue to use our hands in the way which make you proud. You are with us every moment of every day.

These hands, our hands, your hands, the gifted hands we gratefully inherited. They are like the both of you, a gift from God.

Mother Theresa I realize this book will never conclude or I don't have a reason ending ...it will go on and on and I will ... continue to have all the memories.

Mother Theresa you are LOVE.

Your son,

Anthony Rocco Cavaleri

#LoveWins

Holding your Hand forever...

Anthony R. Cavaleri

MPA, MSW and Law, Columbia University

Anthony R. Cavaleri

Tribute Wall

IM

“ Our deepest condolences to the entire Cavaleri family. Sark and I remember how she was so sweet to us at the restaurant. She always came over and greeted us with a friendly smile. May God rest her soul and may her sleep in peace.

Love

Ida&Sark

Ida Mihranian - March 27, 2021 at 10:48 AM

AC

“ Aunt Theresa (Zia) fulfilled the many roles of her life – daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, friend in the way our God asks us to, with much love and genuine caring. She was very generous and kind to those around her and always took the time listen and provide a reassuring word. I have many wonderful memories spending time with her, Uncle Nick and my cousins – Sunday dinners, sleepovers, various get togethers and visiting at the restaurant. I will always remember her amazing cooking (miss those baseball sized meatballs!), her kind nature, beautiful smile and laugh! She is a true inspiration on how we should live our lives and her spirit will always live on in those she touched. She will be missed and will always live on in our hearts.

Angelo & Carol Cavone & Family

Angelo Cavone - March 27, 2021 at 10:09 AM

TM

“ I met your mom a couple of years ago at your apartment with Lisa. She was very considerate and caring. She even walked with us to the hallway as we left. I will pray for you and your family's peace at this time. Thomas Mormile

Thomas Mormile - March 27, 2021 at 09:17 AM

MH

Although we cannot be with you all at this difficult time, know that our prayers and love are with each of you. It was a great privilege to be part of the many family gatherings and to get to know your wonderful ostenta. They are now together in Heaven. Mother Theresa is in our Lord's loving arms.

margarita palomeque de harman - March 28, 2021 at 11:47 AM

MK

“ *Please accept my loving condolences. You are in my thoughts t this time of such loss.*

Margaret Lamar King

Margaret Lamar King - March 27, 2021 at 06:38 AM

DG

“ *Debbie Giraldo sent a virtual gift in memory of Theresa Oppedisano Cavaleri*



Debbie Giraldo - March 25, 2021 at 12:58 PM

DG

Our sincerest comdolences & prayers to the family. Debbie, Lucille, Toni & Family

Debbie Giraldo - March 25, 2021 at 01:01 PM

DS

“ *The kind and gentle soul of Theresa is a true rarity that I had the honor of having in my life and most importantly in my moms life . I will forever thank her for being my moms best friend and for joining our families. Theresa is simply love .. Dawn Sharpe*

dawn sharpe - March 24, 2021 at 07:54 PM

RO

“ Every time I was with Theresa I felt a calm and comforting spirit .. Theresa gave you her full attention and as you sat with her, it was peaceful and you felt loved.. it wasn't that she went out of her way to make you feel this way, it was just her presence you felt it from her heart ... to the entire Cavaleri family, we are so sorry for your loss, may the memories of Theresa be cherished and bring comfort as you go through this difficult time.
Sincerely, Rocco and Christine Oppedisano

Rocco and Christine Oppedisano - March 24, 2021 at 07:51 PM

MR

“ Theresa was one of the sweetest persons I have ever known. Her children seem to echo her presence with the good deeds they bestow on others. Lucky to have had the privilege of knowing her and her departed husband Nick. Hugs and care to her entire family.

marylyn Raleigh - March 24, 2021 at 04:30 PM

JU

Theresa was my lovely customer.
Hug and live all his family. She will be in my heart for rest of life.

Julia - March 25, 2021 at 09:23 AM

JU

My condolences.
She will be in my heart.
Peace and rest!!.

Julia - March 25, 2021 at 09:25 AM

RL

My beautiful sister words cannot express how much we love and miss you. My life won't be the same . I know we have to go on but you are not here. You will always be in my heart . I love and miss you. Rip my dear sister. Love Rose and Bill

rose and william looney - March 28, 2021 at 11:54 AM

AR

“ *Mother T as Anthony always called her was a shining light! I had the pleasure of meeting her more than once on her visits to NYC. What a kind and gentle soul. The world is a bit dimmer with her departure. Sending Anthony and all the friends and family who love and will miss her my sincerest condolences, love and healing energy!*

Anna Rubley - March 24, 2021 at 04:04 PM

TM

“ *Trinity Staff - David, Kathi and Mike purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Theresa Oppedisano Cavaleri.*



Trinity Staff - David, Kathi and Mike - March 24, 2021 at 09:39 AM

MT

“ *Theresa was such a gentle soul. I admired her deeply... the way she made you feel like you were in her family circle....no matter whether you were family or not. I will truly miss her laughter and her sense of humor. She was a woman of principle....compassion.....and beauty inside and out. Her love of humankind is portrayed through the lives of her children. God gave me a blessing of having my cousin Theresa in my life even if it was for a short while. May she Rest In Peace and let perpetual light shine upon this incredible woman named "Mother Theresa"*

Marisa Ricupero Traynor - March 23, 2021 at 05:35 PM

RC

“ I remember Aunt Theresa with love and affection. No matter how busy she was with work and family, she always made us feel welcome and loved whenever we visited. Just wish we could have spent more time with her. We will miss her always.

Rose Crifo - March 23, 2021 at 02:20 PM



“ With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Theresa Oppedisano Cavaleri.



March 23, 2021 at 02:14 PM