

MARY ANN ZAPPALA



Mary Ann Zappala passed away on April 10, 2024, just two weeks shy of her 92nd birthday. She never strayed far from her West Park roots, choosing to keep her extended family within shouting distance. She liked to regale her somewhat skeptical grandchildren with tales of her simple upbringing like playing on the ice truck or helping out in her father's hardware store. She was fiercely loyal to her Alma

Mater, Duquesne University, where she earned dual Master's degrees, first in education and later in counseling. Starting a family early robbed many of the local youth of her teaching prowess but she more than made up for it in spades later in life offering colorful and less than neutral marital advice at her church. Quick-witted and nominally impatient, she indulged in a few simple pleasures such as lunch at Tick Tock (Kaufman's Department Store), saying the "s" word under her breath, singing along with Whitney Houston (badly), and raising the worst menagerie of eccentric dogs imaginable. A bit of a recluse, she nonetheless looked forward each year to hosting over forty of her friends and family for Christmas Eve dinner of the seven fishes. While preparation unnecessarily started the day after Thanksgiving and the requisite number of fish dishes occasionally fell a few short, it remains a favorite holiday memory for all that dined at her table. She loved her boys, her grandchildren and great-grandchild and took pride in their respective accomplishments. In her declining years, dementia robbed her of her cherished independence, a social filter and her short-term memory, so in order to remain part of the conversation she just resorted to making stuff up and kept us laughing until the very end. She will be sorely missed. A Mass will be held in her honor on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 10 a.m., Saint Malachy Church, 343 Forest Grove Road, Coraopolis. A private interment will follow.

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