The death of Mary Hamilton Stepaniak occurred at the Inverary Manor in Inverness, after a lengthy illness on the eve of the feast of the Queenship of Mary, August 21, 2016, at the age of 86.

Mary was one of four children born to the late Dominic Vincent Mancini and Mary Ann (Gouthro) Mancini. Mary is survived by her husband Ernest Joseph Stepaniak, sons Joseph (Melissa), Cole Harbour, Mark (Angela) Margaree Valley, Andrew (Elizabeth) Bedford, daughters Maria (Ron) Robinson and Victoria Ann, Halifax. She is also survived by her sister, Sister Vivian Mancini, S.C. Halifax and a brother Frank Mancini, Peterborough, Ont. She was predeceased by brothers Benny, Arthur and Vincent, as well as sisters, Anne & Rita.

A very special place was held in her heart for her grandchildren, Jacob, Luke, Autumn, Mia, Emma, Isaac and Alexander Nicholas, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Nor can we ever forget her many treasured friends always held securely in her compassionate heart.

Mary Hamilton was born in North Sydney as the first baby in the then new Hamilton Memorial Hospital. Mary was a graduate of Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, who for a period of time worked in social work in Cincinnati and then proceeded to Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish to obtain degrees in Education and it was in this field, that Mary discovered her true vocation, loving and teaching her students to reach and never lose sight of their dreams. She taught for 35 years in High Schools in Guysborough, Edmonton, Port Arthur, Florance, Sydney Mines, Coxheath and Goose Bay, Labrador.

Mary loved to play cards, especially bridge but she also enjoyed swimming, walking, curling, dancing and special family gatherings.

Mary had a passion for drama and this was evident by her many successful school productions at Margaree Forks District High.

Mary was an ardent Liberal who dedicated her life advocating right and just policies for all. Mary was a strong believer in community affairs such as the Red Cross, Teacher’s Union and the North East Margaree Seniors Club.

She was faithful in her efforts to promote the work of the Catholic Women’s League and her involvement in the Cursillo Movement encouraged her to reach out to those far away. In addition, she spent time assisting in Marriage Encounter. Mary was one of the founding members of Saint Patrick’s CWL.

We, the family and friends wish to express our sincere thanks to each member of the Inverary Manor for their intimate and loving care and real concern for our beloved Mary as well as her family doctor, J. Claude Aucoin, Dr. LaFrance and Dr. Ritter for his close involvement in the sensitive needs of all those in palliative care.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Saint Patrick’s Church, North East Margaree at 11:00am on Wednesday, August 24, with Father Everett MacDow officiating.

There will be no visitation. Family flowers only. Donations may be made to Inverary Manor or a charity of your choice. Funeral arrangements are under the care of Sunset Funeral Co-operative, Margaree Valley.