



## Grace M. Bono

September 2, 1922 - March 7, 2012

Grace Marie Bono, 89, died at 7:40 a.m. Wednesday, March 7, 2012. Born September 22, 1922 in Palermo, Sicily, she was the daughter of Vincenzo and Barbara Caleca of Partinico, Sicily. Grace lived in Partinico until she immigrated to the United States in 1947, bringing with her a son, Salvatore (Sam), who was five at the time. Sam's father died as a soldier in WWII. Grace was the ultimate survivor. After her mother passed away when she was seven, she took care of her siblings until her father remarried. Years later, the ravages of war took its toll on her and her homeland, as she lost a very young daughter as well as her husband and father. Like many others before her, Grace bravely left her home and remaining family to start a new life in America. She was an exquisite seamstress and found work in garment factories in St. Louis and Alton. In June 1951 she married Nicholas Bono of Alton, who died in August 2009. With him she had two additional children, Anthony and Rosanne. Among Grace's remarkable talents (besides sewing), she was an avid flower gardener and fabulous cook, preparing Italian meals and cookies for her neighbors, relatives, priests, doctors, and many people she barely knew. A wonderful and fiercely devoted Mother, she made almost all of her and her daughter's clothing (as well as doll clothes). Following in the footsteps of her Sicilian father, who loved his farms and orchards, she tended a large vegetable garden and numerous fruit trees that provided fresh food for her cooking and canning. She worked the soil as long as she possibly could. Her friends and children's friends adored her. She was vivacious and funny

and loved gathering everyone dear to her around the table, crowding everyone in and feeding them. These were her happiest times. A devout Christian, Grace was a former member of St. Matthews Catholic Church in Alton. Surviving her are children Sam and his wife Jo, in Dallas; Rosanne Bono in North Carolina; and Anthony "Tony" Bono, in Godfrey and Dallas. In addition, there are four grandchildren, Debbie Waldrop, Richard Bono, and Nicole and Grace Bono, as well as five great-grandchildren. She has one remaining sister, Santina, and a brother, Antonino, who reside in Partinico, Sicily. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 9, 2012 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. A Mass of Christian burial will be at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10, 2012 at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Alton. Father Delix Michel will officiate. Burial will be at St. Joseph Cemetery in Alton.

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Grace M. Bono*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Grace M. Bono*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss. She was a very special lady and we know you will all miss her very much.*  
*Johnny and Margie*  
*Pugh*

**John and Margie Pugh** - March 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rosanne, so sorry for your loss. I don't remember your mother very well as I think that I was only at your house a few times. She sounded like a great lady. It was very interesting reading her obituary. My prayers are with you and your family.*

**Monica (Crivello) Nash** - March 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *What a wonderful tribute to a true lady that I had the pleasure of meeting. She is in heaven dancing and singing, looking down at us with laughter in her eyes!*

**Katharin O'Brien** - March 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Dear Rosanne,  
My deepest sympathy to you and your family. I still think of your mom when I make pizza at home. When you and I were at St. Matthew's, she would pack pizza in your lunch, and when she found out how much I liked it, she sent an extra piece for me. Still the best I've ever eaten. What a warm, sweet, lovely lady she was. Keeping you, your family and your dear mom in my thoughts and prayers

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**Nancy Berg Murphy** - March 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Rosanne - My thoughts are with you. Such a tough time in our lives. I can so picture your mother - she was so gracious and would bring us just the best cookies when I would be at your house when we were in grade school. I pray that God grants you and your family peace of heart. Kay

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**Kay (McCarthy) Scudere** - March 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Tony,  
I am deeply sorry for your loss. May God give you strenght through this difficult time. Your mom was a wonderful lady and she will be dearly missed. She is with God now and in a better place. May God bless you and her and all of your family.  
With deepest symphathy  
Renata and David Regalado

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**Renata Regalado** - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Russell Musgrave** - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM