

Religious Teachers Filippini...in the House of the Father

Generalate – Rome

Necrology n. 27

January – June 2019



Sr. Antoinette Iorio

✧ Corning, NY
✧ Morristown, NJ

December 26, 1922
January 16, 2019



Sr. Antoinette, born in Corning, NY on December 26, 1922, entered the Institute on June 26, 1937; she received the religious habit on June 10, 1939 and made her perpetual Oblation on August 23, 1942.

Sr. Antoinette was awarded a BS degree in Elementary Education from Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ. Throughout her teaching profession, Sr. Antoinette taught grades three to five in the Archdioceses of Newark and New York and in the Dioceses of Trenton and Camden, NJ. When she was no longer involved in teaching, she assisted as a school librarian and later as a school assistant. Sr. Antoinette also served as local superior at St. James in Trenton, NJ.

When returning to Villa Walsh in 1997, Sister Antoinette took charge of the Villa Gift Shop and assisted in other areas of service until she was no longer able. Her greatest ambition was to remain active and helpful wherever needed. In January 2017, when no longer able, she became a resident at St. Joseph Home Healthcare Center for the Filippini Sisters, yet even there, she helped when possible.

Her eulogy given by Sr. Ascenza Tizzano, the Provincial, describes how Sister shared her gifts. Sr. Antoinette was very responsible and as a result, she completed all her tasks in an orderly manner in every detail. She was a faithful and generous friend. Sr. Antoinette had a strong devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Her last words were “Thank you.”

The funeral Mass was celebrated Rev. Ron Sordillo, the chaplain of the Infirmary at St. Joseph Hall. Her remains are in the Ave Maria cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Sr. Yolanda Amoroso

✧ Orange, NJ
✧ Morristown, NJ

February 13, 1933
January 28, 2019



Born in Orange, NJ, Sr. Yolanda entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie on September 12, 1948; she was invested with the habit of Maestra Pia on June 19, 1949, and made her perpetual Oblation to the Lord on August 31, 1952.

Sr. Yolanda graduated with a BS in Elementary Education from the College of St. Rose, in Buffalo, NY, with an MS in Reading from the University of Bridgeport, CT, and received a certificate from the Assumption School for Montessori in Philadelphia, PA.

For many years, Sr. Yolanda taught in the primary grades in the Archdioceses of Newark, NJ, Philadelphia, PA, New York, NY, Hartford, CT, and in the Dioceses of Cleveland, OH, Trenton and Camden, NJ. Afterwards, she received much satisfaction as a teacher, using the Montessori method at Winsted and Bristol, CT.

In 2003, when Sr. Yolanda retired, she continued to serve the community in many ways while at Villa Walsh. Among her activities, she coordinated classes of art and exercise for the Maestre in the infirmary at St. Joseph Hall; she assisted bringing the Sisters to the doctors and even helped at the reception desk. Sr. Yolanda was energetic, joyous, available to serve all the Maestre – she was truly

a faithful member of the Maestre Pie. This is the spirit she leaves behind her. After a severe stroke, Sr. Yolanda became a resident of St. Joseph Hall in January 2017.

Sister Yolanda's funeral was celebrated by Rev. Ron Sordillo who noted in his homily that Sr. Yolanda had tolerated this illness in a dignified manner and had united her suffering in union with God for the salvation of the world. He further said: "*Sr. Yolanda gave witness and proclaimed God all the days of her life.*" Sr. Alice Ivanyo, her superior, said in her eulogy that Sr. Yolanda, like the little ones of the Kingdom of God, liked to play and enjoy every new day because there were new opportunities; she enjoyed time with her family, but most of all, she was a woman of faith who believed in the mercy of God.

Her remains are in the Ave Maria cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Sr. Helen Rado

✱ New Brunswick, NJ
‡ Morristown, NJ

February 1, 1926
January 30, 2019

Born in New Brunswick, NJ on February 1, 1926, Sr. Helen entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie on June 19, 1938; she was invested with the habit of a Maestra Pia on June 28, 1942, and made her perpetual Oblation on August 26, 1945.



Sr. Helen graduated with a BA and MA in English from the University of Fordham and received a certificate for Administration and Supervision for the elementary school from the Rutgers University, NJ.

Sister taught in the elementary and junior high school levels in the Archdioceses of Newark, New York, and in the Dioceses of Trenton, Metuchen and Camden, NJ. When Sr. Helen was assigned to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Jersey City, NJ and to Assumption in Tuckahoe, NY, she was the principal and the local superior. At Holy Rosary Parish in Perth Amboy, NJ, she was the director of the catechetical program and at St. Lawrence Parish she worked in pastoral ministry.

Sr. Helen had the gift of languages and was a woman full of faith who loved to sing the praises of the Lord. Her great joy was to proclaim and teach the Scriptures. Sister retired in 2016 but was a resident in the Infirmary for only one month.

The funeral Mass was celebrated by Rev. John Barbella, the pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Perth Amboy, NJ. He had special memories of Sr. Helen and spoke of her conviction that God would never abandon her.

Sr. Ascenza Tizzano, the Provincial, spoke about Sr. Helen and her sister, Sr. Johanna, who were part of the Filippini family for 81 years. Sr. Helen always used her gifts for the glory of God with much zeal and energy as a teacher, principal, director of catechetics and as pastoral minister. When Sr. Helen left her last assignment, she said: "I proclaim the Gospel to you with the voice of Christ. I serve you with the hands of Christ and I love you with the heart of Christ."

Her remains are in the Ave Maria cemetery at Villa Walsh near her Filippini sister, Sr. Johanna.

Sr. Catherine Sabatini

✳ Madison, NJ

January 6, 1922

✠ Morristown, NJ

February 7, 2019

Born in Madison, NJ on January 6, 1922, Sr. Catherine entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie on July 6, 1936; she was invested with habit of the Maestra Pia on June 12, 1938, and made her perpetual Oblation to the Lord on August 31, 1941.



Sr. Catherine graduated with a BA in Biology from the College of St. Elizabeth and with an MS in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton.

Sister taught in the elementary and secondary schools in the Archdioceses of Hartford, CT and New York and in the Dioceses of Trenton, NJ and Scranton, PA. Sr. Catherine had taught Biology for 24 years and then became the Dean at Dunmore Central Catholic High School. One of her students from 40 years ago, wrote: *“Sr. Catherine asked a lot and had high expectations on our behalf, but she was always gentle and joyous...She did everything with perfection...”* No matter what ministry Sister had, she worked diligently and precisely with zeal and pride in the favorable results of her efforts. She was loved by the students and their parents whom she served with such gentleness and serenity.

After Sister stopped teaching, Sr. Catherine was responsible for the school office at Villa Walsh Academy for 31 years. Sr. Catherine retired in 2004. One year later, Sister transferred to the Infirmary at St. Joseph Hall where she lived for 19 years, always tranquil and serene especially with those who helped her.

Sr. Ascenza Tizzano, Provincial Superior, spoke about the life of Sr. Catherine, comparing her to a rose: there was a special fragrance of beauty and joy on the petals of her every moment, but there was also the thorns of suffering when she began to lose her vision and health. In all this, Sr. Catherine lived with abandonment, silence and trust.

Her remains are in the Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Sr. Mary De Bacco

✳ Newark, NJ

April 4, 1932

✠ Morristown, NJ

February 7, 2019

Born in Newark, NJ on April 4, 1932, Sr. Mary entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie on June 8, 1952; she was invested with the habit of the Maestra Pia on August 17, 1953, and made her perpetual Oblation to the Lord on August 26, 1956.



Sr. Mary graduated with a BS in History and Italian as well as with an MS in Business Education from the University of Marywood, PA. She received a certificate for pastoral work from Seton Hall University, NJ, and an MS from Fordham University, NY.

Sr. Mary taught in the middle school grades in the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ and in the Diocese of Trenton, NJ. At Villa Victoria Academy and at Villa Walsh Academy, Sr. Mary taught History,

Italian and English; she was also a pastoral minister at the Women's Correctional Facility in Morris County, NJ.

Sr. Mary had many roles of service in the Province of St. Lucy: local superior, formator, Provincial Secretary, Provincial Councilor and Provincial Superior; at Rome, Italy, Sister served the community as General Councilor and then as General Superior for 12 years.

Her achievements were many, not only in the United States but also in the world wherever our Sisters work, with whom she never failed to share fraternal warmth and esteem, understanding in difficult moments, as well as, encouragement and admiration for the apostolic works carried out with so much generosity. Sr. Mary was very close to and helped untiringly to improve the lives of women and children in our missions of Albania, Brazil, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and India. She was a person rich in capability and in spirituality; she was esteemed and loved by all who knew her. She knew how to relate to everyone; with a gentle and sweet voice, she expressed the force of her convictions clearly and steadfastly.

She is remembered as a credible and religious leader. In her eulogy, Sr. Mary Elizabeth Lloyd spoke of Sr. Mary in this way: *"Her smile, her unconditional love, her wisdom attracted many and as a result, the children ran up to meet her and the adults sat with her, sharing their sorrows to which she could not give solutions but all left knowing that she would pray for them. One of the boys from the prison where she helped wrote: 'Sr. Mary treated us with dignity, like real people.' Today he is a practicing Catholic and a lector in his parish."*

Sr. Mary, at the end of her term as General, returned to the United States in 2007, accepting the role of archivist and directress of the mission for the Province. She was also a volunteer at the local correctional facility, helping the women. In 2014, after having fallen, Sr. Mary went to the Infirmary at St. Joseph Hall.

Present at her funeral were Archbishop Cronin, Bishop Cruz, other priest celebrants as well as many family members, friends and the Maestre Pie.

Her remains are in the Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Sr. Carolina Di Clemente

✠ Moscufo (PE) March 11, 1934
‡ Rome April 7, 2019

Sr. Carolina, born in Moscufo (PE) on March 11, 1934, entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie on March 28, 1952, won over by the example of the humble and joyous dedication of her maternal aunt, Maestra Pia Sr. Donata Campetta. She received the religious habit on September 6, 1953 and made her perpetual Oblation on August 30, 1956.



After her years of religious formation, she became a teacher at the nursery schools in various locales and in some, more than once: Cave (RM), San Salvo (CH), Basil Switzerland, Scandriglia (RI), Sinalunga (SI), Ponte Tresa (VA), Manciano (GR), Pisa, Orvieto (TR), Corese Terra (RI), and Rome at Via delle Fornaci.

She also held the office of local superior; but in every task (catechist, teacher, receptionist, cook, assistant, sacristan etc.) she always felt she was in the right place, disposed as she was to realize

whatever was asked of her in obedience. All who knew Sr. Carolina remember her as a Maestra Pia of fine intuition and as having an extraordinary practical sense; she was a patient teacher and untiring catechist, a convinced proclaimer of the Gospel more by example than by word. She was tenacious, courageous and determined to do good, serene in the face of difficulties, reserved and discreet in relationships, sensible and generous in accepting and alleviating every discomfort within and outside of the community, without thinking of herself, always open to the needs of others.

Sr. Carolina was concrete, realistic, quick to act, nothing worried her; trusting in God, united to Him continually in prayer, she was quick to make sacrifices in order to be useful, even in the recent times notwithstanding her inexorable illness that little by little consumed her energy.

In her last stay at the hospital, it was evident that she realized the Lord was near calling her to Himself and she, as always, placed herself with total trust in Him. At dawn on April 7, 2019, she reached the Kingdom where the Lord of life awaited to grant her the joy promised to His friends.

Her body was placed in the Institute tomb in the cemetery at Scurcola Marsicana (AQ).

Sr. Catherine Schimizzi

✠ Watkins Glen, NY May 5, 1927
✠ Morristown, NJ May 16, 2019



Born on May 5, 1927 at Watkins Glen, NY, Sr. Catherine entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on August 30, 1939. She received the habit of a Maestra Pia on June 26, 1943, and made her final profession on June 30, 1946. Her family was blessed by the Lord with the gift of vocations: her brother, Rev. Pasquale Schimizzi, SAC and our fellow Sisters, Sr. Mary and Sr. Rose.

Sr. Catherine graduated with a BS in Elementary Education from the College of St. Elizabeth and with an MA from Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. Sister served in the elementary schools, primarily at the middle school level for almost 40 years. She worked in the Archdioceses of Newark, NJ and Hartford, CT, as well as in the Dioceses of Trenton and Camden in NJ, Cleveland, OH, and Pittsburgh, PA. During her stay at Holy Rosary School in Cleveland, OH, and at Holy Rosary School in Jersey City, NJ, she was the principal. In many of these places she also served as the musician.

Sr. Catherine was honored by the Archdiocese of Newark in 1998 for her many years of service in the Catholic schools. Wherever Sr. Catherine went, she was appreciated for her personal way of following Christ the Teacher and living the charism of St. Lucy; she always tried to reveal the goodness of God and to show we were created to live in harmony and to unite our voices in His praise so that we can become part of His Kingdom. With filial affection for the Madonna, she was very devoted to praying the rosary; she also faithfully promoted the devotions according to the spirituality of St. Brigid.

Sr. Catherine retired to Villa Walsh in 2006 and even though she was retired, she went to St. Anthony Parish in Belleville, NJ, to help with their children's chorus. At Villa Walsh, she helped with the liturgies playing the organ and using her talents in a quiet, humble and precise manner, even as seamstress.

She will be remembered as one who loved to serve and to remain busy, intent on sharing an important lesson that she learned as she aged: have trust in the Lord who accompanies us and awaits us, welcoming us with His loving arms. Sister spread serenity from within and remained joyous right up to the end, when she joked with the doctor who visited her. The celebrant for her funeral was Rev. Frank Donio, SAC.

Her remains are in the Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh, near her sisters, Maestre Pie Sr. Mary Schimizzi, and Sr. Rose Schimizzi.

Sr. Francesca Andronici

✳ Gradoli (VT) December 11, 1936
✠ Bolsena (VT) June 8, 2019

Sr. Francesca Andronici, born in Gradoli (VT) on December 11, 1936, entered the Diocesan Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on December 27, 1953. She received the religious habit and made her perpetual Oblation on November 11, 1956.



After her initial formation, Sister studied and received the Teaching Diploma for nursery school and then served in the communities of Valentano, Ischia di Castro, Acquapendente, Latera. From 1969, she was in the community of Tarquinia (VT), then later in Castel Giorgio and Orvieto, where for many years she taught in the State nursery school.

An attentive, patient, and loving educator with the little ones, she was a wise and affable councilor for the parents with whom she maintained a relationship of listening, welcome, and collaboration. Active and dynamic in parish ministry, she sustained every initiative with untiring enthusiasm and dedication. Spiritually near the sick whom she visited often, she communicated with affectionate simplicity the filial trust in the goodness of the Father to their families. Sensitive to the disabled and their difficulties, especially the poor in our missions, she promoted collections with fervor in their favor.

Sr. Francesca retired from school activity; while her illness had not struck in a persistent and progressive manner, she willingly offered her help in community, available to every Sister, whom she esteemed and put before herself, ready to forgive and humble in recognizing their needs. Profoundly grateful for the continuous, loving assistance in the care she needed, Sister spent her days in prayer, offering her sufferings in silence for the Institute, for the families to whom she had always been close, and for the entire Church.

The Lord called her on June 8, 2019, the vigil of Pentecost. Her remains are in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Bolsena (VT).

Sr. Dorothy DiCristofaro

✳ Schenectady, NY 20.06.1931
✠ Morristown, NJ 21.06.2019

Sr. Dorothy, born in Schenectady, NY, on June 20, 1931, entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on August 16, 1949; she received the religious



habit on September 3, 1950 and made her perpetual Oblation on August 17, 1953.

Sister graduated with a BA in English from St. John University in NY and with an MA in English from Villanova University in PA. She taught in the junior high schools in the Archdioceses of Newark, NJ, and in the Dioceses of Brooklyn; Sister taught in the high schools of Paul VI and St. Joseph in the Diocese of Camden and at Victoria Academy in the Diocese of Trenton, NJ.

During the years, Sr. Dorothy has carried out many administrative roles in the Institute. She was the local superior and formator of the postulants in the United States. For 24 years, she was a General Councilor. Between these terms, she was sent to England in order to assist also as Regional Superior. Upon her return to the United States, she helped in the library of Villa Walsh Academy for a time. After suffering a stroke, Sr. Dorothy became a resident of the infirmary at St. Joseph Hall.

There are only words of praise in the Community of the Maestre Pie for Sr. Dorothy who had sacrificed so many years outside of her homeland out of obedience in service, which she willingly did. In every place, she was respected and loved by her large family, by that of the religious community and by the people to whom she ministered during these years. During the homily of the funeral Mass, Rev. Ron Sordillo, who has known Sister for many years, said: "*Sr. Dorothy has walked in the footsteps of the compassionate Christ... She understood the great love God had shown her and how she was a beloved daughter of God and as a result, she lived that love every moment of her life. If only a small percent of persons on earth were like Sr. Dorothy, this world would become heaven.*" Sr. Laura Longo in her eulogy for Sr. Dorothy recited a poem that Sr. Dorothy kept in her prayer book that explains Sr. Dorothy's life and actions:

Imitate Him

Jesus was infinitely courteous.

Jesus never replied brusquely.

He never listened indifferently.

He never worked impatiently.

He never commanded arrogantly.

He never reproached harshly.

He never spoke inconsiderately.

He never acted hastily.

He did not live a life of ease.

He never dealt with too much familiarity.

He did nothing immoderately.

Oh! The beautiful, the holy, the amiable behavior of Christ.

Imitate Him!

Her remains are in the Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Pie Iesu, Domine, dona eis requiem

