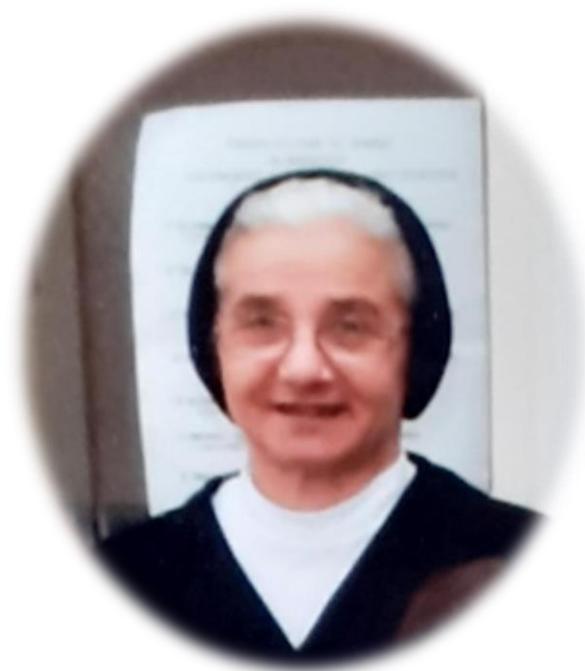


Religious Teachers Filippini...in the House of the Father

Generalate – Rome

Necrology n. 29

January – June, 2020





Sister Angelina Intelisano, MPF

✱ **New Brunswick NJ Decemeber 4, 1922**

✝ **Morristown, NJ February 11, 2020**

Sister Angelina Intelisano, 97, died peacefully on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at Saint Joseph Hall, Home Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born and raised in New Brunswick, New Jersey, December 4, 1922, Sister Angelina entered the Institute of the Religious Teachers Filippini on June 26, 1937. She received the religious habit on December 29, 1938 and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 31, 1941.

Sister Angelina received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, Philosophy, and English from Seton Hall University and a Master of Arts degree in History and Geography from Montclair State College. She also studied Administration, Guidance, and Supervision of Secondary Schools at Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland; Social Studies at Trenton State College, and Curriculum Development at Glassboro State College, New Jersey. She held certifications from the State of New Jersey for Elementary School Teacher, Social Studies Teacher and Principal.

A high school teacher for thirty years, Sister Angelina taught in the Archdioceses of Newark, New Jersey; Hartford, Connecticut; and Baltimore, Maryland; and in the Dioceses of Paterson and Camden, New Jersey. As an elementary school teacher, Sister Angelina taught for thirteen years in the Dioceses of Trenton, New Jersey and Arlington, Virginia, as well as in the Archdiocese of Newark. She served as High School Principal for six years and Elementary School Principal for six years in these same dioceses. For fourteen summers Sister Angelina taught Social Studies to the sisters attending Villa Walsh College. As an international educator, she taught Classical Studies for two summers and served as counselor for seven spring sojourns in Italy, England, Ireland, Spain, France, Holland, Switzerland, Finland, Russia, Greece, and the Greek Islands.

Following her years of active ministry in education, Sister Angelina served the community in Villa Walsh, Motherhouse, for two years before retiring to Saint Joseph Hall in 2008. While at Saint Joseph Hall she enjoyed the pleasure of greeting and welcoming visitors at the main entrance reception desk.

In her eulogy, Sister Laura Longo shared some fond memories. *“Sister Angelina was among the first sisters on the faculty of Villa Walsh Academy and had an AI Forensic Team with competition trophies still on display today. One could always tell an ‘Intelisano’ geography student. She wasn’t afraid to try something different in her teaching. She was the first one in Trinity Chapel for prayers and Mass every morning and, yes, she was there on the very day she died.”*

“Where did Sister Angelina’s hope begin?” asked Father Ron Sordillo in his homily. “It was in the Father’s house in New Brunswick, Saint Mary of Mount Virgin Parish, when the Holy Spirit infused faith in her heart through the sacrament of Baptism. It was the same Spirit that kept her as she grew and even in the last weeks and days and hours of her life. It is marvelous to know that it was the Lord Jesus Christ who was holding Sister Angelina during all the events of her life since her entrance into the community in 1937 up to the early morning of February 11, 2020.”

Her remains are in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.



Sister Cecilia Litting, MPF

✻ West Houghton, Bolton

June 4, 1922

✝ Medstead, Alton

February 27, 2020

Sister Cecilia Litting was born on June 20, 1929, in West Houghton, Bolton, England. She entered the Institute on September 8, 1958, received the religious habit on September 12, 1959, and made her Perpetual Oblation on January 06, 1961.

Already having completed her studies, Sister Cecilia continued teaching mathematics with great professional ability. Equipped with a dynamic intelligence, friendly and kind in her interpersonal relationships, welcoming, capable and possessing a hearty sense of humor, she was a blessing to the Mater Christi Region. She was local superior in the Winchester Community and regional treasurer for a six-year term.

A sense of belonging to the Institute and the local Church (Parish of Saint Peter) was very important to Sister Cecilia. This is the Parish where she carried out her apostolate faithfully until 2017. It was also in 2017 that the Winchester Convent merged, and Sister Cecilia moved to the main house, Saint Lucy Convent, Medstead. She continued to be present and active although she was already declining in health and in need of assistance. As long as she was able, however, she went to the nursery school attached to the convent to share stories with the little children and had them practice the correct pronunciation of the English language; she never lost her role of teacher, although her declining health forced her to limit her activities. She also continued to be present and active in the life of the parish, even when it meant going in a wheelchair. The wheelchair became a chair of life.

Her sufferings were a blessing for the community which expresses itself in this way: “ *Sister Cecilia’s presence and needs were a gift, as they helped each of us to give our best ... it was the instrument which the Lord used to make the bonds of sisterly love and unity grow even more in our community. We shared her prayer life, her fine and pleasant wit, her love for poetry; we learned from her, the history of the United Kingdom, and the details of the history of the foundation of the Institute on English soil of which she was the memory. In moments of community recreation she contributed to feeding the fraternal climate by sharing episodes of her religious life.* ”

In the last period of her life, Sister Cecilia’s great regret was that she no longer felt able to evangelize, but her presence remained a stimulus that motivated those around her. She was very grateful for the loving assistance and dedication of the sisters with whom she lived. Only in recent months, they had to resort to the help of qualified personnel outside the convent to offer her the adequate, professional assistance that she required.

Her life was a generous response to the love of God, with whom she conversed in long moments of solitude. She endured the inability to move freely, with great courage and moral strength until she returned to the Lord on February 27, 2020.

Her remains are on the grounds of Saint Lucy Convent, Medstead, England.



Sister Agnese Coluccia, MPF

✱ **Diso LE,**

May 4, 1947

✠ **Rome,**

February 27, 2020

Sister Agnese Coluccia, born in Diso LE, on May 4, 1947, entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on August 7, 1962, received the religious habit on August 30, 1964, made her Temporary Oblation on August 27, 1967, and Perpetual Oblation on August 23, 1970.

Sister Agnese's apostolate included several houses of the Institute, and in some missions she returned a second time: Scurcola Marsicana AQ, Rome-Largo Santa Lucia Filippini, Sala Consilina SA, Bitonto BA, Napoli, Torre del Greco NA, Spoleto PG, Otranto LE, Aliminusa PA, Teggiano SA.

Sister Agnese has always been a cheerful person, a bearer of joy. During her years of formation, she was considered the "comedian" of the entire novitiate, capable of overcoming any difficulty with a joke. With her natural optimism, she knew how to see the bright side in any situation; her interests were many, and she actively participated in various initiatives. She was a tireless builder of fraternal communion in the community.

While Sister Agnese was open with everyone, she was also reserved; friendly, and never with a disturbing or imposing presence. Her pleasure was to help and lift the burden of the sisters and others. She was the first to rise in the morning to give more time to prayer. The elderly sisters' lives edified her, and she learned from them to be the first to extend help to others. She chose the most difficult and humble services and performed them without wanting to be noticed. Patient and determined in her educational activity and animated by great affection for the young children, she carried out her mission responsibly. Her interaction even with the parents was admirable; her exhortations and suggestions always included a positive word. Thus, the parents listened to her willingly and accepted her advice.

Together with Sister Elizabetta Ricci, they were missioned many years in Aliminusa, PA, where they formed a single "large" community. The closure of the school caused great suffering for the people as well as for the sisters who had to leave this exceptionally welcoming and affectionate area. For several years, the people remained close to Sister Agnese. Their prayers, telephone calls, and messages were always filled with gratitude to the sisters for the good they accomplished among these people.

In September 2019, she was very happy to return to Napoli, although her health was already deteriorating. Within a few months, she became seriously ill and was hospitalized first in Napoli and then transferred to Gemelli Polyclinic in Rome. When they were no longer able to help her, Sister Agnese was discharged and was accepted in Volto Santo where she was pleased to be with her religious family. Throughout this illness, Sister Agnese was very peaceful, cheerful, and resigned to God's Will with her usual strength and joy of mind, grateful to the Lord and the sisters for everything that was being done for her.

On the morning of February 27, 2020, she silently left her terrestrial dwelling for her heavenly home.

His body was laid in her family tomb in Diso LE.



Sister Michelina Ciampa, MPF

✠ **San Nicola Manfredi BN April 11, 1937**

✠ **Terracina LT March 4, 2020**

Sister Michelina Ciampa, born in San Nicola Manfredi BN on April 11, 1937. She entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on October 10, 1949. She received the religious habit on September 06, 1953, and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 30, 1956.

She carried out her apostolate as teacher and catechist in Minervino di Lecce, Sulmona AQ, Avezzano AQ, L'Aquila, Rome-Via Laurentina, Rome-Via Sangemini, Tarquinia VT, Rocca di Papa RM, Castel Giorgio TR, Terracina LT; in some communities she also held the office of local superior.

She spent twenty years of her religious life in Basel (Switzerland) in the Italian school "Lucia-Barbarigo" as a missionary, teaching the children of Italian emigrants. Kind, affable, discreet and wise, she has given her best. She offered her daily life to God, chosen and loved above all things, and served God with joy and enthusiasm with the sisters, the families, and the children who were entrusted to her in the school and the parish catechism groups. She knew how to look at the positive side of everyone and every situation convinced that in each person there is the imprint of God, even if sometimes it appears veiled by human limits.

Giving her best, providing the maximum, sharing the first fruits, this was her program of life. Sister Michelina was always faithful to her vocation in following Christ. She never allowed the youthful enthusiasm and fervor of her early years to grow old or to extinguish. She walked the evangelical path, the ways of the Divine Master and Saint Lucy Filippini, embracing the Crucified Bridegroom, mindful that according to the Instructions, *"The best book of the Maestre Pie must be the Crucified One."*

Sister Michelina touched the lives of everyone:

- ❖ The sisters to whom she has given her help with love and dedication;
- ❖ The families who she approached with love, humility, and discretion;
- ❖ The children and young people in whom she grasped and cultivated the desire to know and imitate Jesus, the Divine Master.

On March 4, 2020, she returned to her Divine Spouse very unexpectedly for her eternal reward.

Her remains rest in the tomb of the Institute in Nettuno RM.



Sister Bernardetta Matilde Celi, MPF

✻ Massa D'Albe AQ

December 4, 1954

✝ L'Aquila

March 31, 2020

Sister (Bernadette) Matilde Celi was born in Massa D'Albe AQ on December 4, 1954. On September 14, 1964, she entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini, which she had known through her paternal aunt Sister Giuseppina Celi, MPF. She received the religious habit on August 15, 1973, made her Temporary Oblation on August 15, 1975, and her Perpetual Oblation on August 1, 1979.

Sister Matilde carried out her teaching and catechetical ministry in the communities of Rome-Via Trevignano Romano, Rome-Via Sangemini, Rome-Largo S. Lucia Filippini, Sala Consilina SA, Teggiano-Prato Perillo SA, Pescara; she also rendered the service of local Superior in Pescara. For six years she was a member of the council of the "Sacred Heart" Province of Italy.

Sister Matilde passed away during the time of the pandemic, after a relatively short hospital stay. This shocked all those who knew her. Everyone competed to express their most deep sentiments of affection, gratitude, and esteem for her.

Known as an amiable and understanding educator, but also strict and rigorous, she modeled our Holy Teacher, Lucy Filippini. She loved children, teenagers, young people, in the school and in the parish, all in the spirit of Saint Lucy Filippini. She was a "volcano" of energy, an explosion of joy, and had a passionate commitment to ACR. She possessed a keen eye for beauty. She had a gift to make herself loved by all. She is remembered as one who guided others and inspired them to grow in faith: *"... you taught us to be honest, to savor the taste of the essential, the good taste of sincere friendship; you taught us to pray silently, to always say thank you, to place kindness before anger, to forgive"*

The teachers and collaborators in the school described her this way: *"an unforgettable person, possessing a big heart with authentic values, capable of creating excitement and participation, always ready to relate constructively, to listen and welcome, without ever denying a smile or a word of comfort."*

Sister Matilde was a tireless travel companion for families, supporting them in their educational endeavors. She enriched the school and parish community with her creative and overwhelming influence. In the community, as a sister companion and as Superior, she was always available, bringing enthusiasm, lively serenity, humble and confident simplicity to those under her care.

After a month of a very intense struggle to fight the coronavirus, she returned to her eternal spouse on March 31, 2020

Due to the pandemic, her body was cremated and these remains are in the family tomb in the cemetery of Castelnuovo di Avezzano AQ.



Sister Henrietta Aprile, MPF

✿ **Jersey City, NJ**

September 14, 1932

✙ **Morristown, NJ**

April 3, 2020

Sister Henrietta Aprile, 87, died peacefully on Friday, April 3, 2020, in the Saint Joseph Hall, Home Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey, after many years of long-suffering.

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey on September 14, 1932, Sister Henrietta entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on September 8, 1954. She received her religious habit August 28, 1955 and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 24, 1958.

Sister Henrietta received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Philosophy from Catholic University of America in Washington DC, and a Master of Arts in Business Education from Marywood College in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Sister Henrietta was proud to hold permanent certifications as Teacher of General Business Studies, Teacher of Typewriting, and Catechist. She was faithful to ongoing formation in the area of religious education.

As an outstanding educator, and loved by her students, Sister Henrietta taught in the New Jersey elementary and secondary schools of Saint Bartholomew, Scotch Plains; Saint Anthony, Belleville; Saint Joseph, Hammonton; Saint Anthony, Union City; Our Lady of Libera, West New York; and Holy Rosary, Jersey City. In other schools she served as Administrative Aide and School Secretary. While studying in Washington she was also secretary to the Apostolic Delegation. In addition to these prestigious apostolates, Sister Henrietta served the community as delegate and secretary to four General Chapters in Rome.

Following her years of active ministry in education, Sister Henrietta served the community in Villa Walsh, Motherhouse, for two years as assistant to the Bursar before retiring to Saint Joseph Hall Home Healthcare Center in 2008. Even in her retirement, she continued to offer her assistance in the insurance office.

In a letter explaining why she wanted to become a Religious Teacher Filippini, Sister Henrietta wrote: *“I wish to dedicate my entire, unworthy self to His service. I wish to labor for His honor and glory, for the salvation of souls, and, lastly, for my personal sanctification. I have had this desire to serve the Lord for a long time. I believe, with God’s grace, I may fulfill my very small part in His Divine Plan by serving Him in the community.”*

Sister Henrietta gave the following reflection after celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the *Constitutions and Rules* in 2017:

“Saint Lucy was determined to bring many souls to God. This is what I have tried to do in my own religious life. Saint Lucy loved the Blessed Sacrament with her whole heart. This I have tried to make an integral part of my religious life. Community life is very dear to me. I treasure it and consider it very precious. I love my Filippini Sisters in Christ.”

This is the legacy Sister Henrietta leaves behind. She lived these printed words.

Her remains are in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Sister Anna Casella, MPF



✻ **Teggiano SA December 12, 1933**

✝ **Rome April 22, 2020**

Sister Anna Casella was born in Teggiano SA, on December 12, 1933. Her family, strongly imbued with Christian faith, gave not only their daughter to religious life but also three priests to the ecclesial ministry. Sister Anna entered the Institute of Maestre Pie Filippini on November 23, 1950, received the religious habit on September 6, 1953, and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 30, 1956.

Sister Anna used her teaching skills in the lower grades and she was a catechist. She served in several houses of the Institute: Otranto LE, Nettuno-Casa del Sole RM; Rome-Via Caboto, Cave RM; Rome-Via dell'Orso; Nettuno-Via Matteotti RM; Torre del Greco NA; Sala Consilina SA, Teggiano-Prato Perillo SA, Naples. Through the years she also held the office of local superior.

Wherever Sister Anna was asked to serve, she went obediently and willingly. She had a great sense of belonging to the Institute, always grateful and pleasant, even in the most hidden, difficult, and tiring places, she offered her very best.

All who knew Sister Anna define her a woman of prayer, of generous dedication, profound human sensitivity, humility, and very reserved. Her presence easily invited dialogue and communion, emanating cordiality, mildness, and discretion, eager and capable of inspiring peace and serenity to those around her.

In her last few years of ministry, Sister Anna assisted in the kindergarten. Although her strength declined each day, she continued to be, as always, maternal, attentive, and loving to the little ones who found in her a reassuring and protective refuge. Even yet smiling, patient and mild, deteriorating health conditions, necessitated she be transferred to "Volto Santo" where she awaited the arrival of her Bridegroom who came on April 22, 2020.

Sister Anna's mortal remains rest in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Nettuno RM.





Sister Irma (Irene Adua) Romano, MPF

✻ **Montemarano AV October 10, 1937**

✝ **Rome**

June 3, 2020

Sister Irma Romano was born in Montemarano AV on October 10, 1937. At the age of twenty, December 9, 1957, she entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini and joined her beloved sister, Sister Rosa, and other Maestre Pie of the family who had already entered the community. She received the religious habit on August 30, 1959, and consecrated herself forever to the Lord, making her Perpetual Oblation on August 28, 1962.

She carried out the apostolic mission in various communities: Castellafiume AQ; Avezzano-San Pelino AQ; Tarquinia VT; Bitonto BA; Naples, Rome-Via delle Fornaci; Rocca di Papa RM; Rome-Largo Santa Lucia Filippini.

Sister Irma was a tireless educator and loved her classes of kindergarten students. She dedicated herself with great patience and gentleness, yet at the same time was firm and demanding; she knew how to motivate the children and fashion them strong in character. Collaborative, trusting, and esteemed relationships with families were cultivated.

Those who have known Sister Irma closely remember her as a Religious Teacher, always involved with youth groups. With an extraordinary, overwhelming inner strength, influencing several generations of young people. With her cheerfulness and, above all, with her simple faith, she was able to attract and motivate the youth; they understood that at times her energetic and abrupt tone masked a large, sensitive, and generous heart.

Sister Irma exercised a very rich apostolate, in places and times where there was a scarcity of means, resources, and possibilities, places where the living water of the Word of God and an affectionate gesture of hope were so needed. Sister Irma traveled the streets of the villages, especially in Marsica, radiating exuberance and generosity, joy, faith, and comfort without measure.

In the community, she was tireless in domestic activities and always available to be fraternally helpful; she never spared herself. Wherever she could, she willingly relieved her sisters of some fatigue. She expressed herself with spontaneity and frankness. If she realized that she had been demanding, she immediately, with humility, presented her apologies. At Volto Santo, where she had lived for many years, with particular skill, she creatively and industriously made shawls and lace, even until recently.

The disease, in various forms and severities, accompanied Sister Irma throughout her life, but despite this she continued to be a woman of faith, competitive and single-minded. Her health, however, gradually waned. Her last hospitalization in the Gemelli Polyclinic was the final stage of her earthly journey. The Lord welcomed her into His home on the evening of June 3, 2020.

Her body was laid in the family tomb in the Montemarano AV cemetery.

Sister Elena Lombardi, MPF



✱ **Pagliarone (CB) Villa S. Michele, IS May 28, 1933**

✠ **Rome**

June 24, 2020

Sister Elena Lombardi, born in Pagliarone CB, today Villa San Michele IS, on May 28, 1933, entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on November 23, 1960, received the religious habit on August 27, 1961, and made the Perpetual Oblation on August 30, 1964.

Sister Elena carried out her apostolic service as a kindergarten teacher, a catechist, and involvement in parish ministry in the communities of Limena PD, Umbertide PG, and Gubbio PG.

Loving, attentive, and patient with the little ones who were entrusted to her, she devoted herself to her educational mission with passion and creativity. Sister Elena was welcoming and available to the parents, and with a listening ear, encouraged them. This resulted in their becoming involved and readily collaborating with Sister Elena. Because she cultivated good interpersonal relationships, and even after many years, those who had known her, continued to confide in her.

Sister Elena had the particular gift of being close to suffering people. With fraternal solicitude, she visited them and accepted this task a privilege, to bring them the comfort of the Word and the Eucharist. She prayed intensely with them, and she often had recourse to Our Lady, Help of the Sick, to whom she had a great devotion

Her generosity of mind and heart was visible in the extraordinary attention she gave to the poor. She could sensitize others to help and favor the poor, and especially the missions, by promoting long distant adoptions.

Although she was poor in health, she was always ready and available to any service in the community. With her sister companions, she was mild, humble, always grateful and ready to recognize some of her limitations. Even in recent years, spent in Volto Santo, until the disease robbed her of her strength, Sister Elena was close to everyone, with simplicity and docility.

The Lord called her on June 24, 2020. At last, she received the eternal reward promised to his faithful servants.

Sister Elena's mortal remains are laid in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Nettuno RM.



Sister Giuseppina Sebastiani, MPF
✻ 1943 - ✠ 2020



With deepest sympathy, the sisters of the *Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini* join in sincere sorrow with the sisters of the *Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini of Montefiascone* in honoring and respecting the memory of our dear sister in Christ, Sister Giuseppina Sebastiani, MPF.

On February 16, 2020, Sister Giuseppina died instantly in an automobile accident. Her good works follow her into eternal life. She continues to be present and alive in the hearts of the sisters, her pupils, the families, and of all the people of God whom she served with dedication, love and zeal.



