



Sister Michelina Gallo, MPF



✱ **San Bartolomeo in Galdo BN**
✠ **Rome**

January 24, 1928
February 7, 2022

Sister Michelina Gallo was born in San Bartolomeo in Galdo BN on January 24, 1928. On October 27, 1952, she entered the Institute where her aunt Sister Filomena Pallotta was already a member. She received the religious habit of the Maestre Pie Filippini on July 4, 1954, and made her Oblation on September 1, 1957.

Sister Michelina rendered her services in the communities of Nettuno-Casa del Sole RM, Otranto LE, Bari-Santo Spirito, Avezza-no-Via Corradini AQ.

Sister Michelina was an assistant, guide, and counselor to the orphaned girls entrusted to her care. To each one, in particular, she was attentive and thoughtful. Likewise, in her role as a kindergarten teacher, Sister Michelina exhibited these same qualities and was always available, amiable, and humble. Her relationship with the children was warm and motherly. Sister enjoyed preparing the children for special programs and events that involved song and drama.

Always attentive and affectionate, Sister Michelina followed the children carefully one by one. They were responsive and her love for them was reciprocated. With a smile on her face, Sister Michelina patiently and energetically stimulated their interest. Her goal was to prepare them well so they would have the ability to face elementary school serenely and with confidence.

A true Maestra Pia, Sister Michelina was a sincere observant of the Rules of the Institute. Sincerely faithful in following in the footsteps of Saint Lucy, she cultivated the spirit of prayer and was often seen in meditation in the little chapel of the sisters.

With her sisters in the community, Sister Michelina was discreet, frank, generous, caring, and helpful, especially with the most fragile and the sick. Though she suffered from poor health herself, she was present at the side of those who needed help, sacrificing even her own needs and her free time.

As long as her strength allowed it, she extended care and fraternal attention to the sisters who were going through particular difficulties, before retiring to Via Sangemini, the home of the retired sisters.

Withstanding a long retirement that also included suffering, the Lord called Sister Michelina to himself on February 7, 2022. Here she was gifted with the joy of his immense merciful love and everlasting happiness forever.

The mortal remains of Sister Michelina Gallo rest in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Scurcola Marsicana (AQ).





Sister Maria Nogara, MPF

✻ **Aliminusa PA**
✝ **Rome**

February 7, 1932
February 21, 2022

Sister Maria Nogara was born in Aliminusa PA, on February 7, 1932, and entered the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on January 7, 1953. She received the religious habit on July 4, 1954, and made her Oblation on September 1, 1957.

Sister Maria was missioned in various places. After her years of formation spent in Rome, she was in San Salvo CH, Terracina LT, Sala Consilina SA, Teggiano SA, Umbertide PG, Ponte Tresa VA, Basel (Switzerland), Anzio RM, Tarquinia VT, Rome-Via Sangemini.

Though an ardent Catechist, Sister Maria further exercised the apostolate of the Maestre Pie becoming involved in many other tasks. She was the director of the embroidery workshop, assistant to orphans and borders, and a teacher in the nursery school. In her later years, she extended her service by attending the door.

For the young ladies who frequented the workshop, she was an attentive, precise, and tireless guide. Through manual activity, she assisted them on the path of the Christian life. She guided them in prayer and introduced and made them aware of the commitments they would face in their future.

With maternal care, Sister Maria also followed the orphans and school children, reminding and correcting them, but at the same time, walking with them and supporting and encouraging them in their school careers. Sister Maria was very close to the families of the Kindergarten children she taught, especially when in Basel, Switzerland. She understood their inconveniences and the difficulties that Italian emigrants encountered living in a foreign land, and she was always ready and available to help them.

With the sisters in the community, Sister Maria's rapport was reserved, kind, and discreet. Although she possessed an excessive determination that supported her point of view, she gave way to welcoming and sharing the opinions of others. Sister Maria tried to meet the needs, dedicating herself to domestic activities, even at the cost of personal sacrifices.

Sister Maria attended to the commitments of our consecrated life with punctuality and precision. Although cultivating a personal prayer life, she never neglected her community prayer.

After a period of physical suffering, an anguish she accepted with patience and love, her earthly life ended on February 21, 2022. The Lord called her to himself to introduce her to His Kingdom of light and peace.

Sister Maria Negara's mortal remains rest in the tomb of the Institute, in the cemetery of Anzio RM.





Sister Elvira Di Cerbo, MPF

✻ Schenectady, NY

December 22, 1927,

✚ Morristown, NJ

March 2, 2022

Sister Elvira Di Cerbo, MPF, died peacefully at the age of 94 on March 2, 2022, in Saint Joseph Hall, Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born and raised in Schenectady, New York, on December 22, 1927, Sister Elvira entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on August 17, 1946. She received the religious habit on June 15, 1947, and made her Oblation on July 2, 1950.

Sister Elvira studied Art, earning both a BA and an MFA from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., where she graduated summa cum laude.

In her 74 years of religious life, Sister Elvira served as a classroom teacher at both the elementary and high school levels in the following (arch) dioceses: Camden, Hartford, New York, Scranton, and Trenton. Sister Elvira ministered for forty-nine years in the Diocese of Camden: four years teaching Art at Saint Joseph High School in Hammonton before being assigned to Paul VI High School in Haddonfield, where she served as a dedicated and passionate art teacher for forty-five years. In 2003, the Diocese of Camden recognized her excellence in ministering to the Church in South Jersey and awarded her the Bishop's Medal for meritorious service. In 2011, Sister Elvira retired to Villa Walsh. Due to failing health, Sister Elvira took up residence in Saint Joseph Hall in 2017.

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province shared, *"Sister Elvira shared her gifts as long as she was able, especially at Paul VI, a mission that was very difficult for her to relinquish. ... In the Province, Sister Elvira will always be defined for her sublime works of art and for sharing this gift of art wherever she was missioned, including Villa Walsh where she spent some of her summers teaching art to the young Sisters. ... With enthusiasm and interest, she readily shared her world of Art. The artwork that remains behind will continue to reveal not only her talent for art but also reflects her great love and devotion for our Blessed Mother whom she captured so vividly on canvas, and also the ability of her wood carving where of an image of Mary she carved is still displayed in the mansion."*

In her tribute, Sister Marianne McCann, who lived with Sister Elvira for many years at Paul VI shared this recent experience, *"I saw one of Sister Elvira's former students who expressed his condolences to me and then of course reminisced about her. From an alumnus of the Class of 1981 he had such vivid memories of her classes and her art lessons, and her high standards."* Sister Marianne continued, *"I still am amazed when I pass all of the artwork hanging in Paul VI and how she was able to get the students to use their talents to such a high degree. The legacy she left us through her art students is immense and inspirational."*

The Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, in his homily noted, *"Sister Elvira's artistic talent, so generously shared, helped others behold the beauty of Creation, which St. John Damascene called 'the living icon of the face of God' and their beauty as made in the image of God. Her unselfish readiness to help others in any way she could make charity real and accessible. But, most of all, it was her faith in Jesus, her deep love of our Blessed Mother, her devotion to God the Father, and her joy that communicated to others in an unmistakable way that beyond this vale of tears lies heaven and the company of the saints to which she has been called."*

Sister Elvira Di Cerbo's mortal remains rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh. Morristown, New Jersey.



Sister Josephine Di Raimo, MPF

✱ **San Giorgio a Liri FR**
✠ **Rome**

March 18, 1936
March 13, 2022

Sister Josephine Di Raimo was born on March 18, 1936, in *San Giorgio a Liri* in the Province of Frosinone. On October 2, 1950, she entered the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini. Sister Josephine's Investiture was on July 4, 1954. This same year her family migrated to Brazil. They requested that Sister Josephine join them, however, she decided to embrace a religious family and chose the community of her maternal aunt, Sister Giustina, who was a Maestra Pia Filippini. On September 1, 1957, she made her Oblation.

After a short stay in Italy, Sister Josephine was sent to the United States where she served briefly. In 1962, unpredictably, she was assigned to Brazil with four other sisters to open a new mission. For eighteen years Sister Josephine worked tirelessly among the people there placing herself fully at the disposal of this mission, a willing and generous instrument in the hands of the Lord.

Still, the Lord had other plans for Sister Josephine. She was assigned to Ireland and then to England, only another stepping stone for a great mission that was awaiting her. On January 25, 1987, Sister Josephine together with Sister Rosey Akkunnath and Sister Marykutty Manakunnel started their journey to India, a land unknown to her, yet it became her home.

Sister Josephine pioneered the Indian mission and served as Delegate Superior and as Regional Superior. She was the English teacher for the first Aspirants and the Junior Mistress. Learning to communicate in the local language, she walked through the villages, visited the families, and came to know the needs of the people. Due to her efforts, many children of the nearby villages were educated. Sister Josephine was a woman of great faith. Mirroring Saint Lucy, she trusted in Divine Providence. She loved the Lord and wanted to make Him known to the people of India. Her motto was always "for God's glory." Until her last moment of life, these same words were repeated. Silent, prayerful, and hardworking, she was much like her patron, Saint Joseph. Always the first in the chapel and the last to leave, her spirit of prayer and goodness breathed peace and serenity.

Using her time, energy, and skills, Sister Josephine was an architect, designer, and tailor. She capably drew up the plans and purpose for the construction of each of the houses and schools in our missions; designed the gardens with flowers and fruits for every season; when the sisters or the children in the village needed clothes, she was the seamstress. Her efforts were selfless and untiring, a woman of few words and owner of so little. Sister Josephine lived and loved the simple life but with a motherly touch provided for the needs of many. She was forbearing in stature, ever approachable, and gentle of heart. Her exemplary life taught more than her words.

Due to health problems, Sister Josephine returned to Italy in 2008 and resided in the Novitiate in Rome. Her wish was always to remain a member of the Indian Region and to return once her health improved. Although this desire was not fulfilled, it gave her the hope to move forward. In 2013, when Sister Josephine required further assistance, she was transferred to Volto Santo. During these long years of suffering, her patience and serenity continued to surface. Even from her wheelchair, she sustained the mission, praying and stitching purificators and laces for the chapel in India.

In the last few weeks of her life, Sister Josephine's suffering was intense, yet she continued her mission encouraging the young Indian sisters who were assisting and accompanying her. "*Let us go forward with the strength of God, Let's live in the presence of God, for the glory of God.*" And this is the precious legacy she leaves behind and why her death is a great loss to those who loved and learned so much from her.

Sister Josephine Di Raimo's mortal remains rest in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Scurcola Marsicana AQ.



Sister Assunta Martignetti, MPF

*** Montefalcione AV**
† Rome

January 8, 1930
March 14, 2022

Sister Assunta Martignetti was born in Montefalcione AV on January 8, 1930, and entered the Institute on October 7, 1952. She received the religious habit of the Maestre Pie Filippini on July 4, 1954, and consecrated herself forever to the Lord pledging her Oblation on September 1, 1957.

Sister Assunta was stationed in the following communities: Rome-Largo S. Lucia Filippini Umbertide PG, Rome-Via Laurentina, Corese-Terra RI, L'Aquila, Avezzano AQ, Roccamontepiano CH, San Salvo CH, Castelgandolfo RM, Cagliari, Terracina LT, Tarquinia VT, Proceno VT. Her mission involved several activities. In the first years of her religious life, Sister Assunta was asked to knit for the sisters who needed shawls, scarves, sweaters, jackets, and woolen socks. She worked tirelessly to meet every particular need.

Always available, Sister Assunta was ready to move to wherever obedience called her. In each house of the Institute, she immediately grasped the services that were needed, and with a spirit of service and sacrifice, she adapted to the new necessities. Wherever help was needed for the orphans or boarders in the many houses of the Institute, temporarily or permanently, she was willing to assist. She nurtured these children with affection and benevolence, particularly those who experienced discomfort. As an educator in the nursery school, Sister Assunta was distinguished by her kindness and affability in welcoming children and parents. Gifted with wisdom and discretion, if she noticed difficulties or tension in the relationships between the families, she did not miss the opportunity to extend simple and humble words that encouraged reconciliation and serenity.

Sister Assunta also served as a parish catechist, especially in preparation for the celebration of the sacraments. After school hours, she found time to devote to the sick in the parish. She always presented herself with a smile and with a grace that made her arrival a joy, a gift from Heaven.

With her sisters in the community, Sister Assunta was respectful, precise, polite, available, understanding, and helpful, without ever claiming anything for herself. She could both dialogue and listen. Because her life was interwoven with prayer, in every commitment, she spread "the aroma of Christ" through her meekness and benevolence.

In recent years, compromised health and increased physical suffering forced her to retire from active ministry. Prayer became the guiding thread of her days, spending long periods praying in the chapel, presenting herself before the Lord, and offering Him in simplicity and confidentiality those she had known and met.

The Lord called Sister Assunta to himself on the evening of March 14, 2022. At last peace and joy that will never end were offered to her.

Sister Assunta Martignetti's body is buried in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Scurcola Marsicana AQ.



Sister Dolores Potkay, MPF

✻ Trenton, NJ
✝ Morristown, NJ

January 16, 1939,
June 19, 2022

Sister Dolores Potkay, MPF, 83, died peacefully on Sunday, June 19, 2022, at Morristown Medical Center, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, on January 16, 1939, Sister Dolores attended Villa Victoria Academy in Trenton, New Jersey on a full scholarship. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on September 8, 1957, received the religious habit on August 31, 1958, and made her Oblation on August 27, 1961. Sister Dolores studied Mathematics, earning a AB degree from The College of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station, New Jersey, and an MS from the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana. Sister Dolores was also awarded a MA in Religious Education from LaSalle University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sister Dolores valued her life as a Religious Teacher Filippini. She embraced the various ministries assigned to her with sincerity and humility. During her 63 years of religious life, she served as a classroom teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal, Provincial Councilor, Provincial Secretary, and Directress of Formation. Sister Dolores worked in the (arch) dioceses of Baltimore, Camden, Hartford, Newark, Paterson, and Trenton. Sister Dolores was appointed convent superior of Villa Victoria in Trenton, New Jersey, and Saint Joseph in Hammonton, New Jersey. She was elected to serve as a delegate to both Provincial and General Chapters. Due to declining health, Sister Dolores retired to Saint Joseph Hall at Villa Walsh in Morristown, New Jersey, in 2013.

In her letter to the Sisters of the Province, Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior wrote, *“A proud graduate of Villa Victoria Academy and intellectually gifted, Sister Dolores served humbly, yet intensely, simply but nobly, justly though kindly. Although reserved, she lived life fully and passionately. In this year of jubilee, when we are celebrating Saint Lucy Filippini, Woman of the Word, I am reminded of Sister Dolores’ profound love for the Scriptures and her ability to share God’s Word. I was fortunate to have been part of a Scripture-sharing group that she guided at Villa Walsh when she was Formator. Always knowledgeable and well-prepared, she invited and affirmed participation, and brought the sharing to a practical level that inspired and concluded with prayer. I will always be grateful to her for this rich experience.”*

Sister Lesley Draper, who had Sister Dolores as Formation Directress, and also lived with her at Villa Victoria, shared, *“Sister Dolores was an Easter person. Although the last decade of her life was more like the Way of the Cross, she persevered in the footsteps of Jesus and is now receiving her reward as she beholds God face to face. Sister Dolores ... often said that the only time you can say that someone persevered is once she is in the grave. ... This was an acknowledgment of the free will given to us by God, the power of grace in our daily lives, and, in true Sister Dolores fashion, the ‘matter-of-factness’ that you haven’t done it until you have done it. She fought the good fight. She finished the race. Now, she is surrounded by myriads upon myriads of angels and saints singing an unending chorus of Alleluias. ‘The strife is o’er, the battle done; the victory of life is won.’ May Sister Dolores hear God saying to her, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant.’ Alleluia! Alleluia!”*

Sister Dolores Potkay’s mortal remains rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.



Sister Rosa Ramundo, MPF

✱ **Muro Lucano PZ** **April 27, 1930**
✝ **Rome** **June 20, 2022**

Sister Rosa Ramundo was born in Muro Lucano PZ on April 27, 1930. She entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on November 21, 1951. On August 30, 1953, she received the religious habit and on September 6, 1956, she made her Perpetual Oblation.

Sister Rosa served in these houses of the Institute: Sala Consilina SA; Teggiano SA; Vitulano, BN. Her assignments in Rome included: Via Sangemini, Via Laurentina, Via Trevignano Romano, and Capena. She also served in Ireland from 1967 to 1978.

In her places of Mission, Sister Rosa served in different capacities. She worked in a knitting workshop, assisted in the community boarding schools, and was an assistant to the Aspirants for three years and one year with the Novices. She served in the nursery school and taught Kindergarten. Modeling her life on Saint Lucy, who was her guide and teacher, Sister Rosa was considered a true missionary, teaching catechism and becoming involved in Parish Ministry. While in Ireland, she tirelessly collaborated in the initiation and the development of the toy factory that provided work for the women and young girls of the area. Generous and always available, Sister Rosa accommodated any need that the Community required of her. At all times, she was available and spontaneous, assisting wherever help was needed.

For those who knew her, the name of Sister Rosa evokes tender sentiments. Although calm, humble, and reserved, her smile and reassuring gaze made her company pleasant and approachable. Her composure was a blend of prudence, understanding, and tenderness. Both the sisters she lived with and the people and children she served were the recipients of these God-given gifts.

Trusting in the Lord, she cultivated a simple and continuous life of prayer; she was very devoted to Our Lady, Saint Lucy, and Saint Gerard Majella, her town patron. She strongly exemplified the commitment of a Maestra Pia, a faithful witness of the Gospel.

In 2013, Sister Rosa was struck by an advancing disease that prompted her transfer to Via Sangemini. In the first years of her illness, Sister Rosa participated in the common activities of community life. However, when reduced to immobility she had no option but to remain in bed. The bed became her altar of sacrifice, her place of praise and thanksgiving. Although she suffered many years from immobility, Sister Rosa remained serene and patient. Observing how she accepted her distress in silence, she was an edification to the sisters and the people who visited her.

The Lord called her to Himself at sunset on June 20, 2022, to receive her just reward for a life lived in love and service.

Sister Rosa Ramundo's mortal remains rest in the tomb of the Institute in Scurcola Marsicana AQ.

