

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

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Generalate – Rome

Necrology n. 34 July - December, 2022





## **Sister Annunziata Antonino, MPF**



✿ **Bitonto BA**  
✝ **Rome**

**January 21, 1943**  
**July 14, 2022**

Sister Annunziata Antonino, was born in Bitonto BA on June 25, 1937. She entered the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on October 6, 1953, received her religious habit on September 4, 1955, and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 31, 1958.

Sister Annunziata taught in the primary grades and was also a catechist in various locations: Teggiano SA, Montemaggiore Belsito PA, Pescara-Colli, Teggiano-Prato Perillo SA, Otranto LE, Naples, Sala Consilina SA, Bari-Santo Spirito, Frascati RM, and Avezzano-Via Corradini AQ.

Since 2000, withdrawn from direct scholastic activity, Sister Annunziata collaborated and assisted in the various necessary chores in the house. In addition to attending the door, she served as an assistant in the canteen in Castel Gandolfo RM and in Pescara.

Endowed with a fine intelligence, and a lively, open exuberant character, Sister Annunziata enjoyed working together, exchanging ideas, and investigating new possibilities. Sister often asked and willingly accepted the contribution of others and enjoyed the company of the sisters and school staff. Frankness and sincerity were her trademarks.

With generosity, dedication, and love, Sister Annunziata responsibly immersed herself in the duties given to her, yet the greatest of her energy was for the pupils to whom she tirelessly devoted herself. With her creativity, Sister Annunziata worked to ensure that the children were busy and active, and prepared to meet the future. Cultivating skills to reach this goal, she eagerly encouraged and acknowledged their achievement.

With the families, Sister Annunziata maintained a constant dialogue. She received their positive support and together they were committed to the academic success of the children. Sister Annunziata joyfully participated in parish ministry and even when she was no longer able to operate directly, she was happy to accompany the sisters in charge, and assisted with youth groups, sharing her experience of life and her spirit of prayer.

Giving her attention to those children who were going through moments of difficulty, Sister Annunziata freely and frequently offered words of encouragement and evangelical comfort. To nurture her spiritual life and to better follow and participate, Sister Annunziata enthusiastically made use of new technologies, and always found interesting ideas and thoughts to share with the community.

When Sister Annunziata's health proved to be more precarious, she was welcomed to Volto Santo. With her goodwill, the support of the community, and above all, relying on divine help, she continued to devote herself to small daily activities, at the service of the sisters most in need of company and assistance, until she was no longer able.

After a painful hospitalization, on July 14, 2022, the Lord called Sister Annunziata to Him to bestow on her the joyful reward promised to faithful servants.

Sister Annunziata Antonino's body is buried in the cemetery of Bitonto BA, her hometown.



## Sister Angelina Mazzarella, MPF

✱ Exeter, Pennsylvania      November 28, 1938

‡ Morristown, NJ              July 15, 2022

Sister Angelina Mazzarella, MPF, 83, died peacefully on Friday, July 15, 2022, at Morristown Medical Center, New Jersey.

Born into a large and loving family on November 28, 1938, in Exeter, Pennsylvania, Sister Angelina entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on June 11, 1956, received the religious habit on August 25, 1957, and made her Oblation on September 4, 1960.

Receiving a BS degree in Elementary Education from Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, Sister Angelina faithfully and diligently served as a classroom teacher in the (arch) dioceses of: Camden, Newark, Paterson, Scranton, and Trenton. Due to declining health, Sister Angelina retired to Saint Joseph Hall, Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh in 2019.

In her tribute, Sister Marie Antonelli, who lived with Sister Angelina for many years at Holy Spirit Convent, Pequannock, New Jersey, offered these reflections: *“Generations of students at Holy Spirit School were blessed by the kind and gentle teaching of Sister Angelina. She infused each lesson with ‘God’, ‘joy’, and ‘love,’ no matter the subject. By finding and nurturing the best in each child, she was a shining example for parents of how to love every young person as a child of God. For parishioners, she provided a religious presence, friendship, and the perfect example of a servant of God. ... Sister Angelina’s legacy at Holy Spirit School lives on in the thousands of her students who learned to know and love Jesus through her teaching. ... As the news began to circulate of Sister Angelina’s passing, beautiful sentiments were posted on Facebook, Instagram, and e-mail. They all spoke of her beautiful smile, kindness, love of God, care for our children, and her dedication as a teacher.*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province shared, *“The message of Sister Angelina’s rapidly declining health, and soon after, the announcement of her passing, touched a sensitive chord in my heart. Sister Angelina was a member of my Investiture Group, the Holy Name of Mary. ... While I extend my sympathy to you today, I also celebrate with you from afar, Sister Angelina’s life of fidelity, goodness, and perseverance. Recalling her from the time of her entrance, Sister Angelina... was obedient, humble, reserved, kind, and very comfortable taking second place. Her solid, simple but strong faith, revealed itself in her intense life of prayer. It was obvious this took priority; Christ was the center of her modest life. ... For those of you who knew Sister Angelina, you also know the familiar line that was included in every greeting or conversation of hers, ‘God is joy!’ This was her life ‘mantra!’ These words were also part of the decorations in her classroom, her students chorus response to ‘Who is God?’ and the legacy of ‘joy’ that she leaves behind.”*

*“Sister Angelina, may the Holy Name of Mary provide you entrance into eternal life, and I pray your encounter with the ‘God of joy’ exceed your every expectation. Rest in peace!”*

The Reverend Father Alfred Lampron, former pastor of Holy Spirit Church in Pequannock, New Jersey, offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh.

Sister Angelina’s body was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

## Sister Giovanna Bonasia, MPF



✻ Bitonto BA  
✝ Rome

June 25, 1937  
July 22, 2022

Sister Giovanna Bonasia, born in Bitonto BA, on June 25, 1937, entered the Institute on September 1, 1968, and received the religious habit of the Maestre Pie Filippini on August 22, 1970. She made her Temporary Oblation on August 27, 1972, and her Perpetual Oblation on June 4, 1978.

Sister Giovanna Bonasia rendered her services as a nursery school teacher and catechist in various communities: Borgo Carige GR, Orvieto TR, Capena RM, Anzio RM, Cave RM, Manciano GR, Aliminusa PA, Varoni di Montesarchio BN, Tarquinia- Center of Spirituality VT.

Sister Giovanna is cherished as a *blessing* to the community for her dedicated, joyful life of consecration in the footsteps of Saint Lucy Filippini. She was an example of humility, availability, charity, and hospitality.

Because of Sister Giovanna's sincerity and social and apostolic dedication, she was highly esteemed by the people she served and loved. Engaged in the daily life of their relationship, she gave great attention and listened to the problems of others, and offered her active and prayerful support in every situation of life. Wherever she was able to collaborate, especially in catechesis and liturgical animation, she made herself available with kindness and humility.

In the community, Sister Giovanna gave the best of herself. Always present for community acts, ready to serve where needed, an example of prayer, and available to enact fraternal acts of charity, these summarize the best of her life. She was a sister in the true sense of the word, attempting to meet every desire or need of others. Dedication and love, simplicity and sincerity, for these and more, she will be remembered.

In recent years, Sister Giovanna's health had become more critical due to her weak heart. Even then, she never wanted to burden others, but always remained silent and continued to be self-giving. Continuing to give a good example, she contributed to the construction of a loving and peaceful community and was always united and docile to God's Divine Will for her.

Spending the last period of her life at Volto Santo,

Sr. Giovanna constantly immersed in trusting prayer. On July 22, 2022, she reached the celestial homeland to meet her Divine Spouse to whom she had dedicated her whole life so faithfully and lovingly.

Sister Giovanna Bonasia's mortal remains rest in the family tomb, in the cemetery of Bitonto BA, her hometown.





## **Sister Lucia Savino, MPF**

**✿ San Giovanni Rotondo FG    March 3, 1924**  
**✝ Rome                                    August 3, 2022**

Sister Lucia Savino, born in San Giovanni Rotondo FG on March 3, 1924, entered the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on November 22, 1945, received the religious habit on October 5, 1947, and made the Perpetual Oblation on October 15, 1950.

Sister Lucia was missioned in various communities as a nursery school teacher: Nettuno RM, Bari-Santo Spirito, Anzio RM, Teggiano SA, Taranto, Castro LE, Bitonto BA, Otranto LE.

Sister Lucia was a sociable and open person, with an ever-youthful enthusiasm and possessed a spirit of sacrifice. Her strong sense of responsibility was visible in the many relationships she held with children and parents, sisters, and the people. Her jovial, lively, and cheerful character was appreciated and sought after in a particular way by the little ones that she managed to approach with a smile and a caress. She was solicitous and ready to sense their needs and requirements. She advised, helped, and comforted them, and no request of theirs remained unsolved.

Endowed with a particular charism, Sister Lucia knew how to listen and participate. She was an expert and witty in storytelling. With a sense of humor, she entertained with both comical and interesting anecdotes.

Sister Lucia was selfless and hardworking. She gave her time and space without reserve to anyone who knocked on the door of the Institute, which she always wanted to be opened, or rather wide open because she was ready and willing to listen and have them share their various family and personal problems.

Skilled in making lace doilies, she creatively prepared graceful packages from simple pieces of fabric. These she generously offered as gifts to others, and in every circumstance gave them in the name of the community. Always presenting herself confidently, she was determined to give her best in every activity; she was sincere and considered a point of reference when there was a need.

Sister Lucia paid particular attention to the local Church. She carried a significant and affectionate presence. Towards the Bishop as well as the priests who provided the daily liturgical service to the community, she expressed sincere esteem, fraternal joy, and gratitude.

Sister Lucia's long earthly life ended on the evening of August 3, 2022. The Lord whom she often fervently prayed and made known to all who approached her welcomed her into Heaven for the eternal wedding.

The memory of her as a woman of challenges, courage, and astounding fortitude, remains engraved in the hearts of the people, whom today feel her presence in their prayer.

Sister Lucia's body rests in the tomb of the Institute, in the cemetery of Anzio RM.



## Sister Doris Lavinthal, MPF

✱ Trenton, N J

May 21, 1929

† Morristown, N J

October 5, 2022

Sister Doris Lavinthal, MPF, died peacefully on Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at Saint Joseph Hall, Healthcare Center Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. She was 93.

A native of Trenton, New Jersey, Sister Doris was born on May 21, 1929, entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on May 24, 1950. She received the religious habit on September 2, 1951 and made her Oblation on August 22, 1954. Sister Doris earned a BS degree in Education from the College of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station, New Jersey, and a MS in Counselor Education from Marywood College in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

In her 71 years of religious life, Sister Doris ministered as a classroom teacher, Principal, and Director. She was missioned in the (arch)dioceses of Hartford, Newark, Ogdensburg, and Paterson. Sister Doris faithfully served the Community in several leadership roles: Supervisor of Schools, Provincial Councilor and Community Treasurer for three terms, and local Superior in Watertown, New York, and Pequannock, New Jersey.

Sister Doris's passion for education was demonstrated by her commitment to the students, parents, faculty and staff where she ministered. Her most extensive tenure was at Villa Walsh Academy in Morristown, New Jersey, where she served as Principal from 1976 until 1990, when she was appointed Director. Generations of students were the recipients of her visionary leadership and dedication to Catholic education in accord with the charism of Saint Lucy Filippini. In 2013, the newly constructed athletic center was dedicated in her honor and named the "Sister Doris Lavinthal Athletic Center."

In his homily, the Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, noted, *"At the moment that Sister Doris passed from this world to the next...she spoke no final word. Nor did she need to. By her conversion from Judaism to Catholicism, her whole life became a clear, unmistakable word of faith in Jesus who died for our sins and was raised from the dead, the one Savior of all. Living the evangelical counsels as a religious faithfully for 71 years, her actions spoke that saving word to countless others."*

Sister Patricia Pompa, Provincial Superior, who served as Principal during Sister Doris' tenure as Director at Villa Walsh Academy offered this reflection, *"Sister Doris' greatest joy was when she was in the classroom. Her thoughts on teaching were quite simple, 'Teaching is a constant search for hidden treasure. It is a gentle probing into the future.' She was a gentle giant in so many ways. Her love and service to the Community always came first...Sister Doris was vital in the preparations and construction of Regina Pacis, Freytag Hall, Saint Joseph Hall Infirmary and of course the Sister Doris Lavinthal Athletic Center... It was her kindness, generosity and goodness that overshadowed what many thought was a serious demeanor. It was only when you got past that external look, that you saw the wise, gentle and compassionate soul emerge. And so we thank you, Sister Doris, for sharing your life with us. It has been a remarkable journey of faith, of trust, and of abundant joy!"*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Province of Saint Lucy wrote, *“We are the recipients of what Sister Doris has quietly, yet impressively accomplished and given to the Province and to Villa Walsh Academy. Her passing leaves an emptiness. ... Isn’t it surprising that we have so much to share regarding Sister Doris, yet she was a person who spoke little, but the ‘little’ was profound and demanded your full attention. ... Undoubtedly, the students and the school were the center of her life. This is where her passionate heart and visionary mind raced; the place where she used her creative mind to introduce innovative programs, ... where she earned the love and respect of teachers, staff, parents, and students. This is where she could do her share in evangelizing and keeping aflame the light of Christ that shone through Saint Lucy.”*

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Doris was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

Sister Doris Lavinthal’s mortal remains rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.



### **Sister Anne Marie Pace, MPF**

✻ **Dunmore, Pennsylvania**      **September 13, 1924**  
✚ **Morristown, NJ**                      **October 14, 2022**

Sister Anne Marie Pace, MPF, died at the age of 98 on Friday, October 14, 2022, in Saint Joseph Hall Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, on September 13, 1924, Sister Anne Marie entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on October 19, 1940. She received the religious habit on June 15, 1941, and made her Oblation on August 26, 1945.

Sister Anne Marie studied Elementary Education, earning a BS degree from Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, and an MS in Social Studies from Canisius College, Buffalo, New York.

A dedicated classroom teacher, Sister Anne Marie taught in the (arch) dioceses of Baltimore, Hartford, Metuchen, Newark, Scranton, and Trenton during her 81 years of religious life. In 2020, Sister Anne Marie retired to Villa Walsh.

Sister Elizabeth Toft, who lived with Sister Anne Marie at Saint Jerome Convent in West Long Branch, New Jersey, after Sister Anne Marie’s retirement offered these words of tribute, *“Sister Anne Marie was truly faithful to her consecration as a religious Sister... She never ‘tired’ of helping children learn. One of her greatest joys was tutoring students when they were having difficulty, and getting them to understand the concept or skill they needed to succeed. Sister Anne Marie was an excellent teacher...always offering her words of wisdom and guidance...Grateful for whatever*



*anyone did for her, Sister Anne Marie expressed the blessings she received from God all throughout her life.”*

*Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province recalled, “Sister Anne Marie embraced the charism of Saint Lucy and dedicated so many fruitful years to the education of youth. Her students will remember her as a teacher who demanded the very best from them and who reached out willingly and generously to achieve this. She especially extended herself to disadvantaged children. She was ready and willing to give extra time even after school hours to help them improve and progress. Through the years, Sister Anne Marie shared success stories of her students who benefited from her high standards and expectations and today are very successful. Even when Sister Anne Marie was no longer able to teach full-time, she never lost her love for teaching. She continued to work with students who needed further assistance in small groups or individually. ... Sister Anne Marie was a woman of prayer and perseverance in every sense.”*

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Anne Marie was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, the 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her Baptism.

In his homily, Father John Barbella recalled a memory he had of Sister Anne Marie. *“Sister Anne Marie labored for Jesus in so many ways. Every time I said Mass at the convent in Perth Amboy, [New Jersey], I was always struck by how beautifully the sacred linens were done. They were immaculately white, without the slightest wrinkle - and pressed and folded to precision. Learning that Sister Anne Marie was the one who cared for those linens, I told her how nice they were done. Her response to me was simple and direct: ‘Jesus deserves the best.’ That answer told me something beautiful about Sister Anne Marie. She loved Jesus so much that she worked behind the scenes at a job almost nobody would notice making sure the linens at Mass were perfect for Him. And now we pray that Jesus, who saw and appreciated that labor for Him, gives eternal rest to Sister Anne Marie, who loved Him so much.”*

Sister Anne Marie Pace’s mortal body rests in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.



### **Sister Giovanna Colaizzi, MPF**

**✻ Castel del Giudice IS  
✚ Rome**

**January 13, 1931  
November 05, 2022**

Sister Giovanna Colaizzi, born in Castel del Giudice IS on January 13, 1931, entered the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on March 21, 1957, and received the religious habit on August 27, 1961. Sister Giovanna made her Perpetual Oblation on August 30, 1964.

Stationed in the communities of Gubbio PG, Rome-Via Sangemini, Rome-Largo Santa Lucia Filippini, Rome-Casa Volto Santo, and Anzio RM, Sister Giovanna cared for orphan children, assisted in the kindergarten and in the primary school and attended the door.

Sister Giovanna was a welcoming, smiling, and responsible teacher. She lovingly watched over the pupils, young and old, especially in the waiting hours before and after school. Her "working method" was admirable based on patience and serenity. With these virtues, she entertained the children and involved them in listening to stories and episodes from the Gospel, and in learning religious and recreational songs.

Being a woman of prayer, Sister Giovanna drew strength precisely from this incessant practice. She was very devoted to Our Lady and was always seen with Rosary in her hand. She taught everyone to pray and to offer the day's actions to the Lord.

Polite, precise, and available, she spread peace all about her. When someone confided in her with a suffering or a problem, she recommended doing good and to entrust oneself to God's Will. During the Christmas Season, her conversations and catechesis focused on the Mystery of the Incarnation. In the reception area, she set up a crib, taking care of the smallest details as an artist, to surprise anyone who passed by.

Sister Giovanna was loved and appreciated by all the sisters with whom she maintained relationships of respect, understanding, and mutual help. The sisters who wore the traditional habit benefitted from her service. For many years, she was always the one who made the "gricci" for the Cuffie.

Her health which had been compromised for some time was getting worse, and her sight no longer allowed her to carry out her simple activities. Through this, however, Sister Giovanna continued to spend her days in prayer. Surprisingly, the Lord called her to himself into his kingdom of eternal joy on November 5, 2022.

Sister Giovanna Colaizzi's mortal remains, awaiting the glorious Resurrection, rest in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Anzio RM.



### **Sister Liberata Rizzo, MPF**

✱ **Collepasso LE**

**October 13, 1941**

✠ **Rome**

**December 5, 2022**

Sister Liberata Rizzo, born in Collepasso LE on October 13, 1941, entered the Institute on January 27, 1964. She received the religious habit of the Maestre Pie Filippini on August 30, 1964. Consecrating herself to the Lord, she made her Temporary Oblation on August 27, 1967, and her Perpetual Oblation on August 23, 1970.

Sister Liberata carried out her apostolic services in various locations: Basel (Switzerland), Spoleto PG, Manciano GR, Limena PD, Corese Terra RI, Sala Consilina SA, Nettuno RM, Naples, Terracina LT.

At the beginning of her Religious life, Sister Liberata was sent to Switzerland as a missionary and assistant in the nursery school. This is where the sisters welcomed the little ones, children of Italian immigrants at the first light of day, and sometimes even during the night hours. In other places of mission, she was an educator in the nursery school and later dedicated herself to assisting in the canteen and at the reception. The children loved her so much. She was always smiling, cordial, respectful, and very understanding toward their parents, especially those in difficulty.

Sister Liberata was courageous and self-sacrificing, available in every situation. When some problem arose in the community, she gladly contributed to solving it. She made a generous effort to substitute for those who could not complete the service in which they were engaged. Everyone could always count on her. She inquired about the various external activities of the sisters and treasured the advice she received.

Sister Liberata was a very reserved and sensitive person. She rarely manifested her physical and inner sufferings, although they were many. How hard she tried to hide her discomfort, at the same time, she was grateful for any favor or attention that made her experience sisterly concern.

Very devoted to the Madonna, Sister Liberata always entrusted herself to Mary, certain that in any situation, she would not lack her maternal help. She spent the last period of her earthly life at Volto Santo in prayer and offering and maintaining, as usual, her attitude of silence and confidentiality. The Lord called her to himself during the Novena to the Immaculate Conception on December 5, 2022.

Sister Liberata Rizzo's mortal remains rest in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Anzio RM.



