

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

Generalate – Rome

Necrology n. 35 January – June , 2023



Sister Luigia Delmirani, MPF



✱ Zizia (Tripolitania) Libya

June 28, 1936

† Viterbo - Montefiascone

February 16, 2023

Sister Luigina Delmirani was born on June 28, 1936, in Zizia-Tripolitania (Libya), where her family members had moved for reasons of work. After the war, however, the family returned to Italy, to Valentano VT, the town of origin.

It was here that as a young girl Sister Luigina for the first time met the Maestre Pie. They were so dear to her father since he remembered them fondly from his childhood. Sister Luigina was also so fascinated by them and the decision to embrace the same life slowly matured in her. She entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini in Montefiascone, on January 8, 1951. She was welcomed by the Superior, Sister Domenica Firmani.

After the time of initial formation, November 4, 1954, from the hands of the Bishop, His Excellency Mons. Luigi Boccadoro, Sister Luigina received the religious habit and consecrated herself totally to the Lord.

Sister Luigina's apostolates were in various parishes of the Diocese: Marta, Onano, Gradoli, Viterbo-Fastello, Montefiascone-Zepponami, and Ischia di Castro. She also spent several blocks of time giving service in the Motherhouse in Montefiascone.

She was a collaborator in parish pastoral care, a catechist, an educator in the nursery school, and an effective assistant in the summer camps organized at the diocesan level. The small children, who are now adults, tenderly remember Sister Luigina's words accompanied by her good-natured smile and her maternal and affable attitude. They also recall that she was firm, decisive, and attentive to their growth as they matured.

With firm faith and tireless dedication, Sister Luigina took care of everything that needed to be accomplished in the various schools and communities where she was missioned: caring for the needs of the elderly and sick sisters, shopping, cooking, attending the maintenance of the garden, driving, and accompanying the sisters. She also directed her attention to the poor, etc. Everything she accomplished was always accompanied by utmost availability.

From her simple and trusting prayer, Sister Luigina drew the strength to generously follow the Lord in the footsteps of Saint Lucy, who wanted her sisters to be women of prayer and sacrifice.

Sister Luigina maintained lively and constructive relationships within and outside the community; always active and interested in every family, civil and social event. She continued to be a significant presence among the sisters in Montefiascone, who are profoundly grateful to the Lord for the witness of her consecrated life, offered to the very end in simple and spontaneous serenity.

In her last weeks, she became ill at home, and later it demanded she go to the hospital in Viterbo, where she died on February 16, 2023. In his infinite mercy, the Lord called Sister Luigina to himself to reward her for the blessed mission she performed here among us. Her Divine Spouse offered her the crown of glory promised to his faithful servants.

Sister Luigia Delmirani's body was buried in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery at Montefiascone VT.

Sister Rosa Casella, MPF



✿ Teggiano SA
✠ Bitonto BA

August 10, 1936
February 24, 2023

Sister Rosa Casella, born in Teggiano (SA) on August 10, 1936, entered the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on September 14, 1951, received the religious habit on September 6, 1953, and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 30, 1956.

Sister Rosa Casella rendered her services as a catechist and educator in the Institute's kindergartens, and in state schools, in various locations: Rome-Ginnasi, Capena RM, Sala Consilina SA, San Salvo CH, Sulmona AQ, Manciano GR, Corese Terra RI, Aliminusa PA, Varoni di Montesarchio BN, Bitonto BA.

Strong and determined, sensitive and available, animated by a profound sense of responsibility and a spirit of sacrifice, Sister Rosa tried to make the most of her talents.

Sister Rosa was active in parish pastoral care. She offered generous, valid, and discreet collaboration to parish priests. She cultivated close relationships with the families of the pupils, especially the younger ones, involving them in various interesting promotions and support activities for the little ones. The constant nourishment of her life was prayer and meditation: she was there in the chapel early in the morning before the scheduled community time, always, in the cold winter as well as in the hot summer.

In Bitonto, Sister Rosa's last residence, as long as her strength allowed her, she would cross the large open courtyard early in the morning, leaning on her cane to open the school door, which is quite far from the community environment.

The testimonies of those who knew her are many and unanimous; they refer to her as "a teacher of life, with an immense heart, always ready to listen, to understand, to offer advice... a teacher with a thousand smiles for everyone, adults as well as children... Loyalty, simplicity, and sincerity were visible traits. How many tears she has wiped away from the face of the little ones, how many sweets she offered to make them smile! Sister Rosa was a decisive and determined person, and, at the same time, sweet, always vigilant and welcoming, sensitive and attentive, to the needs of those who passed by her each morning.

Her voice and her presence were a continuous reminder of good: she assured every one of her trusting prayers to the Lord in their every need. If someone wasn't present at church on Sunday, she inquired about their state of health and took the situation to heart as if they were her family members. Now, having arrived in the Father's house, she will surely continue to supervise the entrance to the school and to smile at everyone, children and adults, to hearten them, and will present them to the Lord, there at the door of heaven ..."

The goodness that Sister Rosa has sown on the earth, under the mighty hand of God, will sprout vigorously. The intense suffering of her last few months was accepted with admirable serenity. It increased her strength and helped her while striving toward the Bridegroom. In the brief moments that the sisters were allowed to see her during hospitalization, before presenting herself to the Lord, she asked: *pray, pray...* Her face remained serene: she seemed to assure the children that she would continue to protect them. Her funeral was celebrated in the Institute Chapel in Bitonto on February 26, 2023, the first Sunday of Lent.

Sister Rosa Casella's body was buried in the Modugno BA cemetery where her sister already rests.

Sister Maddalena De Cristoforo, MPF



✿ **Capistrello AQ**

December 6, 1928

† **Rome**

March 12, 2023

Sister Maddalena De Cristoforo, born in Capistrello AQ on December 6, 1928, entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini at the headquarters in Rome-Via dell'Orso on May 25, 1946. She received the religious habit and made her Perpetual Oblation on December 8, 1947.

Sister Maddalena has served in the most varied tasks in different communities: Rome-Via dell'Orso, Rome-Via Sangemini, Rome-Via Trevignano Romano, Anzio RM, Manciano GR, Rome-Casa Volto Santo.

Sweetness and meekness were the traits that characterized Sister Magdalene: Certainly, no one has ever received a refusal from her. Her actions were discreet, and balanced, always accompanied by a serene smile. She was a teacher of life with words, with her silence, and with her example.

Gifted with a lively intelligence and profound intuition, Sister Maddalena faced every difficult situation with balance and breadth of vision, and by sharing her contribution of wisdom, she supported the community in various decisions. Her calmness and patience were the fruit of an intense prayer life that rooted her firmly in the Lord and allowed her to always work in his Presence.

Rich in human and Christian goodness, Sister Maddalena possessed a big heart; she was always willing to welcome, she knew how to instill trust, she encouraged everyone to see the positive side in every circumstance, and she faithfully witnessed in everyday life abandonment to the Will of God and God's Providence.

Sister Magdalene was a humble and generous Teacher, a woman of peace, ready to sacrifice to make others happy and lighten someone's burden. She lived fully the words of Saint Paul (1 Cor. 13): "Charity is patient, kind, it does not boast... it takes pleasure in the truth..." She excused everything, and never complained, even when the work for the community was tiring.

Dedicating herself to the little ones in kindergarten, to children in catechesis, and to families in parish pastoral care, she was a valid support to the sisters in collaborating in the various activities in which they were engaged. She even cooked for the local community. Fully involved in the animation of the Liturgy, she led the faithful in community prayer and no one was denied the Word of faith.

Sister Magdalene spent her last, long years at Volto Santo dedicated to prayer, combined with the offering of herself and her sufferings. She was often seen in the chapel begging and praying for the Institute, for the sisters who shared the journey with her, a passage of sickness and old age, for the people whom the Lord allowed her to meet in life. Sister Magdalene prayed for all humanity.

Sister Magdalene left this earth to meet her beloved and desired Bridegroom at dawn on March 13, 2023.

Sister Maddalena De Cristoforo's mortal remains rest in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Anzio RM.

Sister Brigida Mangone, MPF



✿ Muro Lucano PZ
✠ Rome

June 7, 1924
April 15, 2023

Sister Brigida Mangone, born in Muro Lucano PZ on June 7, 1924, entered the Institute on September 21, 1945, and received the religious habit of the Maestre Pie Filippini on November 3, 1946. On October 3, 1949, she made her Perpetual Oblation.

Stationed in numerous communities, Sister Brigida served in each one as a parish catechist and was also a teacher in the nursery school: Anzio RM, Scurcola Marsicana AQ, Rome-Via delle Fornaci, Trevi PG, Otranto LE, Rome-Via Laurentina, Cagliari, Rome-Ginnasi, Cave RM, Vitulano BN, Naples.

In addition to the ministry assigned to her, Sister Brigida loved to visit the sick and the elderly. Through the years, she created a prayer group that met weekly in the chapel of the Institute. Under her guidance, she contacted them individually by telephone so that everyone could take part. Sister Brigida loved discussing theology and was a dispenser of spiritual advice. With a sense of responsibility, she tried to live fully the charism of the Maestre Pie; she was interested in deepening her self-knowledge and willingly participated in all the formative meetings scheduled for the teachers, students, and the community.

When Sister Brigida was in charge of welcoming the confessor, she invariably reminded the community of the importance of fidelity to the Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. She encouraged the sisters not to miss the opportunity to meet the Lord who is forgiving and welcoming.

Sister Brigida's last assignment at her advanced age was in Naples. She was transferred there needing specific medical care at a nearby center. Even at this late stage in her life, she continued to retain the special qualities for which she is remembered. Although elderly, she continued to maintain an active schedule and made constructive relationships both in and outside the community. She was always available to meet any request made of her according to her physical possibilities.

Prayer was an essential part of both her personal and community life and she was faithful to making a daily holy hour of adoration in the chapel. Claiming ownership of the Chapel, she was responsible for its care and enjoyed arranging the flowers to place before the Lord.

These inspiring thoughts were found among her writings: *"Every prayer of mine before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament fills me with joy. Before I knew many concepts only in theory, but now I experience them; I have grown in the awareness that each person is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and I feel this Divine Reality alive in me...; in Naples, I had the opportunity to live a more intimate life with the Lord Jesus. My prayer tempered me even in my suffering"*.

Even when Sister Brigida began to feel the heaviness of her age, she did not disdain duty at the reception desk or to assist in the kitchen. She loved surprising the sisters by preparing new recipes. With a jovial and serene character, she smiled benevolently when being teased, understanding that it was an opportunity to show affection.

For health reasons, she asked to be transferred to Volto Santo. On April 15, 2023, Sister Brigida, reached the long-awaited goal, where she eternally contemplates her Lord and Spouse whom she so loved on earth.

Sister Brigida Mangone's mortal remains are buried in her family tomb in the cemetery of her birthplace.

Sister Antonietta Soccorsa Romano, MPF



✱ **Castelfranci AV**
✠ **Rome**

March 1, 1927
April 18, 2023

Sister Antonietta Soccorsa Romano, was born in Castelfranci AV on March 1, 1927. She entered the Institute on September 21, 1946, received the religious habit on October 5, 1947, and made her Oblation on October 15, 1950.

Sister Antonietta's many years of service as a Maestra Pia Filippini covered various localities: Rome-Via Caboto, Rocca di Papa RM, Spoleto PG, Avezzano-Via Corradini AQ, Castelgandolfo RM, Diso LE, Teggiano SA, Otranto LE, Bari-Santo Spirito, Bitonto BA. Wherever assigned she was a parish catechist and primary school teacher. In some of these missions, she was also the superior of the local community.

Sister Antonietta lived a long life and was always faithful and dedicated to her Spouse. A woman of prayer, she drew strength precisely from her continual relationship with the Lord. Since she bore the name "Soccorso" from her Baptism, Sister Antonietta was very devoted to the Madonna del Soccorso. How often she was seen praying in whispers, squeezing her rosary in hand. Sister Antonietta was always present at community prayer, and community meetings. All commitments related to our fraternal life, you could count on her presence.

An attentive teacher and educator, Sister Antonietta attracted pupils and parents with her characteristic qualities of kindness, patience, and joy. Cordial and serene, she offered advice with an attitude of humility and availability toward everyone. Presenting herself with professionalism and precision was the key to gaining the respect of others. She loved her pupils and was available to help them overcome difficulties, encouraging them to give their best, and not give way in the face of obstacles, but to meet them courageously.

Sister Antonietta was polite and punctual in carrying out her every task, and respectful of the roles and work of others. Everyone loved her precisely because of her dignified, distinct traits. The sisters admired her spirit of self-denial and sense of duty. They further appreciated her practical intelligence, ever vigilant, and attentive.

Her last thirteen years were spent in the community of Rome-Via Sangemini. Free from direct activity, Sister Antonietta was entrusted to attend the door, which she accepted with her customary availability and gentleness. In her free moments, she spent time crocheting and creating centerpieces, true masterpieces, which she then made available to the community for charitable initiatives in support of our Missions.

At dawn on April 18, 2023, Sister Antonietta did not appear in the chapel. Instead of meeting the Lord there as she did punctually every day, she answered the Lord's call, this time, a heavenly encounter, to enjoy the bliss of eternal life. She also joined her dear Sister Ida, also a Maestra Pia, whom she loved and prayed for so often. Those who knew and esteemed Sister Antonietta, now entrust her to the Lord with deep gratitude and affection for all that she modeled during her many years of religious life.

Sister Antonietta Soccorsa Romano's mortal remains rest in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Scurcola Marsicana AQ

Sister Genevieve Corallo, MPF



✻ Modica, Sicily, Italy
✚ Morristown, NJ

August 5, 1931
March 27, 2023

Sister Genevieve Corallo, 91, died peacefully on Monday, March 27, 2023, at Saint Joseph Hall, Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born in Modica, Sicily, Italy, on August 5, 1931, Sister Genevieve came to the United States in 1947, with her mother, sister, and brother. Ten years earlier, her father had arrived in the United States. Settling in Jersey City, New Jersey, Sister Genevieve attended Holy Rosary School where later that same year, on October 13, 1947, she entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in Morristown, New Jersey. She received the religious habit on June 19, 1949, and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 31, 1952. Sister Genevieve studied Elementary Education and earned an AA degree from Villa Walsh College in Morristown, New Jersey.

Faithfully and generously, Sister Genevieve served the people of God wherever ministry took her: the classroom, the nursery, and parish ministry. She also served the Community as a local Superior. In her 73 years of religious life, Sister Genevieve was missioned to the (arch) dioceses of Cleveland, Newark, New York, Paterson, Scranton, and Trenton. In 2019, due to declining health, Sister Genevieve retired to Saint Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh.

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province shared, *“The legacy Sister Genevieve leaves behind is one of a holy and humble presence. Wherever assigned, she never demanded or wanted more. She lived her life simply and happily and won the affection of the people she served. Although not fluent in the English language, her kindness, sense of duty, hard work ethic, and expression of appreciation, compensated for any deficiency in communicating. Her goodness spoke louder than her words. ... I especially recall her many years of ministering in the Nursery in Immaculate Heart in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Three Sisters, Sister Genevieve one of the three, worked vigorously and sacrificed in many ways. They lived among the people in a modest neighborhood setting. The people in the neighborhood would remark how safely they felt when they saw the lighted chapel in the early morning and late evening of this small praying community. The Sisters, dedicated, conscientious, and sacrificial, were always present and joy-filled. It was not uncommon for them to have a child as a guest at their breakfast or supper table accommodating a parent’s working schedule. ... May we all be inspired by the goodness and simplicity of Sister Genevieve’s life.”*

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Genevieve was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh. In his homily, the Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, New Jersey, aptly told the story of a teacher who never knew all the good he did in life. Bishop continued, *“No teacher ever does. Today as we bid our farewell to Sister Genevieve, we can be sure that she never realized all the good she did as a Religious Teacher Filippini. ... But Jesus did. And, we pray that Jesus who died for our sins and was raised for our justification now looks on the good she did, the faith she kept, the love she shared and welcomes her to our true home in heaven.”*

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

Sister Maria Costanza Miggiano, MPF



✿ **Cerfignano LE**

✝ **Rome**

January 18, 1923

April 30, 2023

Sister Maria Costanza Miggiano was born in Cerfignano LE on January 18, 1923. She entered the Institute on October 4, 1947, and received the religious habit of Maestra Pia Filippini on September 2, 1949. On September 15, 1952, she made her final Oblation and remained faithful to those promises until her death on April 30, 2023.

More than one hundred years of benevolence and mercy on the part of the Lord, and for seventy-four of these years she offered them in humble fidelity to Him. She gratefully admitted that the Lord had always protected her and kept her faithful on her life's long journey. How often she reminded the sisters of the fact that she never had any particular illnesses, nor needed medicines, confirmation of the Lord's fidelity to her.

Throughout her long life, she served in various locations, some, unfortunately, the Maestre Pie Filippini, are no longer present: Rome-Via Caboto, Naples, Gubbio PG, Basel-Switzerland, Pescara, Pisa, Scandriglia RI, Manciano GR.

With a huge, generous, and welcoming heart, Sister Costanza's story was one of commitment, service, and availability. Her presence was always loving and kind when first caring for the orphans, and later among the little children in the nursery school, and also among the children and young people when she was a catechist and Catholic Action assistant.

Cheerful and jovial, she trusted everyone and inspired serenity and peace. Having a determined and strong-willed character, Sister Costanza demanded a lot of herself, making countless sacrifices. Rich in humane qualities, she ministered at the bedside of those suffering and supported them with prayer. Her simple and sincere faith was translated into attitudes of understanding, patience, and encouragement towards anyone who approached her.

Wise and industrious, and ready to meet the needs of each sister and of the community, Sister Costanza devoted herself successfully to various domestic activities. She was skilled in gardening, and obtained luxuriant blooms that she used to decorate the chapel; appreciating good sight until her last days, she continued her gift of embroidering and making fine, delicate laces.

During her stay at Volto Santo where she had been transferred for some years, she spent her time trying to make herself useful, remaining long in the chapel for personal adoration and obediently accepting the arrangements that were gradually made for her.

Now she lovingly contemplates the Lord Jesus, her Spouse, while her mortal remains rest in the tomb of the Institute, in the cemetery of Scurcola Marsicana AQ.



Sister (Iolanda) Noemi Dall'Armi, MPF

✱ **Cavaso del Tomba TV**
✠ **Rome**

January 13, 1929
May 15, 2023



Sister (Iolanda) Noemi Dall'Armi, born in Cavaso del Tomba TV on January 13, 1929, entered the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on September 27, 1948. She received her religious habit on July 2, 1950, and made the Perpetual Oblation on September 12, 1954.

In the communities of Tarquinia VT, Pisa, Caorle-S. Giorgio di Livenza VE, Ponte Tresa VA, Naples, R, Sister Noemi was a teacher in the nursery school, a catechist, and an assistant to the pupils of the elementary school. In Rome, she cared for the university students at Volto Santo and then spent the longest period of her apostolic activity at "Auxilium Christianorum" Via Missori.

At Missori, Sister Noemi gave daily testimony of an industrious, sacrificing life, totally spent for the Lord. Initially, the special purpose of Missori was dedicated to welcoming pilgrims and later was open to other people. Over time, many individuals and groups, from Italy and abroad, of all ages, came to Rome on pilgrimage or for religious tourism. In addition to them, many families tried by the illness of children or relatives, hospitalized in nearby hospitals, found a place of welcome and comfort at Missori.

With her reassuring smile, serene and calm voice, and distinct and elegant traits, Sister Noemi made everyone feel at ease. She attended to their personal needs and provided for them with kindness and fraternal solicitude. Comforting and exhorting them, she had a word of encouragement for each. She shared her faith that was a support to her, a fruit of her constant and ardent personal prayer.

Sister Noemi demonstrated a deep affection towards her sisters in Christ. She served them in perfect harmony, respectful, kind, and joyful. She was sensitive to each one's needs and made every effort to be of help, supporting them in their weariness, with exquisite evangelical charity.

A faithful and responsible member of the Institute, and animated by a lively sense of co-responsibility, Sister Noemi spared no effort to collaborate in the maintenance of our missionary works, thus believing that she was bringing the proclamation of the Gospel to the world through her sisters, as Saint Lucy wished.

Her incessant activity, her unreserved dedication, and her generous spirit of self-denial caused Sister Noemi many health problems. Having a lean and delicate physique, she began to feel fatigued and a loss of vision. Gradually, she experienced a painful skeletal-muscular contraction, for which she was forced to transfer to Volto Santo, the building that she had helped to open, to welcome young university students away from home, and then later converted to care for the infirm sisters of the Italian Provinces. Among the sick and elderly, as long as it was possible, Sister Noemi continued to offer her availability, giving her generous service as always.

It was from this house, that on May 15, 2023, the Lord called her to himself to welcome her, as a guest to the eternal joy she earnestly desired.

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

Sister Gloria Barone, MPF



✳ Jersey City, NJ

May 28, 1938

✠ Morristown, NJ

May 16, 2023,

Sister Gloria Barone, died peacefully on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at Saint Joseph Hall, Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. She was 84.

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, on May 28, 1938, to a loving family, Sister Gloria entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on July 16, 1953, received the religious habit on August 22, 1954, and made her Perpetual Oblation on July 7, 1957. Sister Gloria earned a BS in Elementary Education from Saint Joseph University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and a MA in Secondary Education from Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania.

Wherever God's call took her, Sister Gloria was devoted to the mission. During her 68 years of religious life, she ministered in the (arch) dioceses of Camden, Metuchen, Newark, Scranton, and Trenton, as a classroom teacher in both elementary and secondary schools. At the high school level, she taught French and Mathematics. Sister Gloria also served as Vice-Principal in schools at both educational levels. In her later years of ministry, she served as Administrator of a residence for at-risk children awaiting placement in foster care. During this period, Sister Gloria engaged in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), which she thoroughly enjoyed. In 2018, due to failing health, Sister Gloria retired to Saint Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Father Jeffrey Lee, a close friend of Sister Gloria, offered the Mass of Christian Burial. In his homily, Father Lee explained: *This Mass of Christian Burial is not just about the past, or even about Sister Gloria; it's about us. Those of us who remain have been entrusted with the task to carry on. ... We pray that this God who sustained Sister Gloria throughout her life will also sustain each of us.*"

In her tribute, Sister Laura Longo, who worked closely with Sister Gloria for many years, shared a loving tribute: *"Sister Gloria was born the last of five girls into a faith-filled, loving family. Both parents worked; therefore, baby Gloria was cared for by the Religious Teachers Filippini who staffed the day nursery in Holy Rosary, Jersey City. The Sisters always returned Gloria to her mother looking as adorable as when she arrived at the nursery. Gloria followed in the footsteps of her sisters who were all enrolled in Holy Rosary School. She graduated eighth grade as Valedictorian. After two years of high school... she was granted permission by her parents to enter the Religious Teachers Filippini. ... Having known Sister Gloria for more than 40 years, I can say that what was truly outstanding about her was the compassion she had for everyone and anyone at any time. People sought her listening ear and understanding heart. Her life of prayer was so important to her, and she remembered in prayer those to whom she ministered."*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province wrote, *"God blessed Sister Gloria with so many practical and intellectual talents and skills. Through her many years in active ministry, she utilized these gifts freely, creatively, and generously, yet never sought the glare of public attention. Sister Gloria's paths in diverse ministries allowed her to touch all age levels: children teenagers and adults for more than sixty years. Sister Gloria's life well lived, her suffering behind her, is welcomed now to the banquet of the Lord. She gave her total life in loving service to her Divine Spouse. 'Come, and receive the crown that has been prepared for you from all eternity'."*

Sister Gloria Barone's remains were laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Sister Virginia (Immaculate) Barbato, MPF



✿ Montesarchio BN

April 17, 1936

✠ Rome

June 3, 2023

Sister Virginia Barbato was born in Montesarchio BN on April 17, 1936, entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on September 24, 1956. She received the religious habit on September 1, 1957, and made her Oblation on August 21, 1960.

Serving as an educator, teacher, and collaborator, in kindergartens and primary schools, Sister Virginia was assigned to various locations: Spoleto PG – San Salvo CH– Avezzano AQ– Prato Perillo SA – Bitonto BA – Sala Consilina SA– Montemaggiore Belsito PA – Bari-S. Spirito. Sister Virginia was a member of the community at Bitonto three times, for almost thirty years. It was during her third stay in Bitonto due to declining health, she required the assistance that Volto Santo provided.

Blessed with a mild and sensitive charisma and animated by a deep sense of responsibility and spirit of sacrifice, Sister Virginia always tried to give her very best. Whatever she had the ability to do, she offered her services wholeheartedly.

How obvious that her life was nourished by her prayer and meditation. So often, you would find Sister Virginia in the chapel both in the coldest times of the year as well as in the summer heat. As an authentic Maestra Pia, Sister Virginia taught the silent art of service by her example, without seeking recognition or applause. A woman of few words, yet certainly of great wisdom, she was the prudent guardian of many who walked through the door of the Institute. Strong and serene, she was never seen to be annoyed or distrustful. A readiness to talk, to excuse, to forgive was part of her very nature.

Similar to some, Sister Virginia lived an ordinary life in an extraordinary way. She leaves no trace or memory of herself behind; yet, with closer scrutiny, you find this is the real "*cornerstone*" of human society. The Kingdom of God, in fact, increases every day, thanks to those who bear witness to it without making "*noise*" but praying and living their commitments with faith in the family, the workplace, and in the community.

Sister Virginia loved the community and actively participated in community meetings, making a simple yet rich contribution to lived spirituality. She was available to help everyone and accepted the most humble and hidden works. A good example of this is a sister who dedicated herself to the kitchen passed away. Sister Virginia very quietly replaced her. Wearing a white apron, calm and serene, she prepared dinner every evening, and made an effort to discover the needs and tastes of each.

When Sister Virginia became ill, very fragile, both physically and psychologically, she continued her duties as long as her goodwill allowed and agreed to go to Volto Santo when her health continued to fail. This is where she spent her last year until welcomed into the arms of the Father on June 3, 2023. No doubt, her dear, sister, Sister Concetta, was awaiting her sister's entrance. The Sisters she shared community with will remember her with gratitude for all that she was for each of them. They keep in their hearts all the good she accomplished in silence, and the affection and fraternal esteem that she radiated.

Sister Virginia Barbato's mortal remains rest in the family tomb, in the cemetery of Montesarchio.



Sister Mary Rotante, MPF

✿ Stamford Connecticut July 7, 1924
‡ Morristown, NJ June 11, 2023

Sister Mary Rotante, died peacefully at the age of 98 on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at Saint Joseph Hall, Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born to Salvatore and Giovannina (Guarnuccio) Rotante on July 7, 1924, in Stamford Connecticut, Sister Mary grew up in a loving and faith-filled family. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on December 6, 1941, received the religious habit on June 28, 1942, and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 26, 1945. Sister Mary earned a BA degree in History from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in Baltimore, Maryland, and an M.Ed. from the University of Hartford, in Hartford, Connecticut.

In her 80 years of religious life, Sister Mary served as a classroom teacher, principal, administrative and library assistant, and in pastoral ministry. Sister Mary was also appointed local Superior of several convents including Villa Walsh where she gave many years of generous service. Sister Mary served in the (arch) dioceses of Baltimore, Camden, Hartford, Metuchen, Newark, Ogdensburg, Paterson, Philadelphia, Providence, Scranton, and Trenton. In 2016, due to declining health, Sister Mary retired to Saint Joseph Hall.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Mary was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Thursday, June 15, 2023. Her body was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

In his homily, the Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, shared: *“Sister Mary served the Lord in so many ministries, ... blessing eleven different dioceses by her ministry. What a great legacy to leave! She accepted every new assignment, knowing that Jesus was leading her where He knew she could do the most good. And in all her work, she took Jesus’ words in the Gospel literally. She went to the Lord who said, ‘Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you.’ (Mt 11:28) Because of her faith in Jesus, Risen from the dead, she found the strength and comfort to do all that she did. Now, at the age of 98, Sister Mary, a faithful, dedicated follower of Jesus, has passed through the portal of death, not in fear, but in the sure knowledge that Jesus, her Master, her Lord whom she always longed to be with, was there on the other side, waiting to welcome her home. May the Lord receive this faithful religious into the fullness of life forever.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province recalled: *“Sister Mary had a great love and curiosity for History, especially that of our country... At the same time, Sister Mary had a great interest in reading Catholic and Community related materials: current writings of the Pope, and commentaries on the Scripture readings of the day... How timely that Sister Mary died while the Church was preparing to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi! Throughout her long life, Sister Mary was daily invited to the table of the Lord and nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ. As she is laid to rest, may the nourishment she received daily strengthen her in today’s journey to the Father, to the Father who welcomes her to the Heavenly banquet. Sister Mary, we thank God for the gift you have been to us and for the gifts you leave us. Rest in peace.”*

Sister Mary Rotante’s mortal remains rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Sister Edda Bartoli, MPF



✿ **Castelgandolfo RM**

January 4, 1929

† **Rome**

June 27, 2023

Sister Edda Bartoli, born in Castelgandolfo RM, on January 4, 1929, entered the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on October 9, 1947, and received her religious habit on October 2, 1949. On September 14, 1952, she made her Perpetual Oblation.

Sister Edda served as a parish catechist and a teacher in the elementary and the lower secondary school, in the localities of Sala Consilina SA, Naples, Rome-Via Sangemini, Frascati RM.

After retiring from teaching in 2004, Sister Edda continued to serve in the community as a substitute teacher and assisted in the school luncheon program. She was also the receptionist at the school until she was transferred to Volto Santo in 2011. She always tried to make herself useful, and even at Volto Santo, she gave a hand to the sisters most in need of company and help.

Rather reserved, Sister Edda never focused on herself. She actively participated in community meetings and school initiatives. In a personal and original style, she cultivated interests in various cultural, communicative, and practical fields.

Those who knew Sister Edda describe her earthly journey in a unanimous synthesis: a pleasant Maestra Pia, with a kind and smiling attitude towards everyone. She always made herself available to assist and worked with a professional stance. With her mild and polite character, a refined and pleasant way of conversing, in the utmost sincere and humble way, she knew how to relate to children and adults, parents and teachers.

Faithful to her consecration, Sister Edda lived her union with the Lord in simplicity, and even at her time of death, she addressed Him with repeated and varied ejaculatory prayers, which she also expressed aloud. On June 27, 2023, singing and praying, she concluded her earthly pilgrimage.

Sister Edda continues to smile from Heaven on all the pupils she met in her long educational ministry and with Saint Lucy and the long line of Maestre Pie Filippini who preceded her, she sings the praises of the Lord.

Sister Edda Bartoli's mortal remains rest in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Anzio RM.



