

Generalate – Rome

Necrology n. 36 July - December, 2023



Sister Gloria Doria, MPF



✿ New York City, NY

October 31, 1930

† Medical Center, Brick, NJ

August 5, 2023

Sister Gloria Doria, MPF, died suddenly, though peacefully, at the age of 92 on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at Ocean University Medical Center, Brick, New Jersey.

Born in New York City, New York, to Joseph and Mary Doria, Sister Gloria was raised in Bayonne, New Jersey, in a loving and faith-filled family. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on June 27, 1948, received the religious habit on June 19, 1949, and made her Oblation on August 31, 1952. Sister Gloria earned a BS and MS in Secondary Education from Saint John University, Jamaica, New York.

In her 74 years of religious life, Sister Gloria ministered as a classroom teacher, Vice-Principal, and Principal. She served in the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Archdiocese of Newark. Sister Gloria was appointed by the Community to serve as local Superior in the following New Jersey convents: Saint Peter the Apostle, River Edge; Saint Anthony, Union City; Our Lady Queen of Peace, Maywood; Our Lady of the Assumption, Bayonne; Saint Francis Xavier, Newark; and Holy Family, Nutley. At the time of her passing, Sister Gloria ministered as a receptionist at Saint Anthony Church, Belleville. The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Gloria was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Tuesday, August 14, 2023.

In his homily, Reverend Father Ranulfo D. Docabo, Pastor of Saint Anthony Church, in Belleville, shared: *“When I learned of the sudden death of our beloved Sister Gloria, like many of you, I was deeply saddened and shocked. She was just with us in our parish office, chatting and smiling with us. ... When we look at the life of Sister Gloria, we see that she lived a fruitful life of ministry for 74 years! For one to bear fruit for God we need to be infinitely connected to Jesus and obedient to His commands, because everything comes to us through Jesus. Sister Gloria was a woman of faith whose love for the Lord was evidenced by how she lived her consecrated life.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province offered: *“Scanning Sister Gloria’s profile, one can immediately see the good that she accomplished in her long life. ... In addition to her apostolate, from her very early years in mission, Sister Gloria was recurrently assigned the position of local Superior, which verified her ability to govern kindly and humbly, with affection and concern for the sisters in her care. The key to Sister Gloria’s achievement was her ability to listen attentively and to treat others respectfully...How appropriate that you gather today on this vigil of the Feast of the Assumption to lay Sister Gloria to rest: The Assumption of Mary emerged so often in her life. In fourth grade, she was enrolled in Assumption School. It was at Assumption School where she was first introduced to the Filippini Sisters. No doubt, the impact of her education at Assumption School remained with her, and the seed of her vocation lay dormant until after high school when she courageously stepped forward and fulfilled her desire to become a Filippini Sister. ... Sister Gloria, may Our Lady of the Assumption, who trailed so much a part of your life, introduce you to the glory of God’s kingdom, and we pray that this heavenly experience brings you great joy and eternal rest.*

Sister Gloria Doria’s mortal remains rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.



Sister Maria Mellacca, MPF

✿ Minervino of Lecce LE

January 25, 1938

† Rome

August 6, 2023

Sister Maria Mellacca was born in Minervino, Lecce, on January 25, 1938. She entered the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on September 8, 1955. She received the religious habit on August 30, 1956, and freely consecrated herself to the Lord on August 30, 1959, the day of her Perpetual Oblation.

Sister Maria carried out her apostolate as a nursery school teacher and parish catechist in various houses of the Institute: Bonea BN, Varoni BN, Vignacastri LE, Altavilla Irpina AV, Torre del Greco NA, Vitulano BN, Orvieto TR, Aliminusa PA, and Castel Gandolfo RM. In some of these locations, Sister Maria also served as Superior.

Sister Maria lived as a true Religious Teacher. The sisters who lived with her for several years recall her memory:

“For Sister Maria, the sense of belonging to the Institute was important. She exemplified this by giving her best to support various activities together with her local community. Her presence in community acts, in mutual service, in prayer, and her availability to anyone who asked for her help, she made an effort to meet everyone with love, simplicity, and dedication.

If the person was absent, she never engaged in negative judgments, but went to their defense, demonstrating her support for the person.

Because Sister Maria always retained a smile, it seemed a smile was permanently set on her face. Thus, it was easy to relate and share thoughts and reflections with her. The parents of the students respected her and willingly confided in her. In turn, she offered active and prayerful help in every life situation where she was able.

Gratitude to the community was evident, never complaining. Rather, she accepted every situation from Divine Providence and was very grateful to the community.”

In 2014, for health reasons, Sister Maria was transferred to Volto Santo. Initially, she participated fully in the life of the community, always serene and available. Slowly her health deteriorated, and although she remained without speech, she silently communicated her gratitude for the acts of kindness of those who visited her.

August 6, 2023, on the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, she was called by her Bridegroom to be transformed into Him.

Sister Maria Mellacca’s mortal remains rest in the tomb of the Institute, in the cemetery of Nettuno RM.





Sister Annette D'Antonio MPF

✿ Middletown, Connecticut

March 29, 1950

✝ Memorial Hospital, NY

September 14, 2023

Sister Annette D'Antonio died peacefully on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, New York. She was 73 years of age. The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Annette was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

Born in Middletown, Connecticut on March 29, 1950, Sister Annette attended Saint Sebastian School in Middletown. Inspired by the good example of the Religious Teachers Filippini she had come to know and love, she entered the community on July 2, 1964, and received the religious habit on August 17, 1968. Sister Annette made her Temporary Oblation on September 5, 1969, and her Perpetual Oblation on June 2, 1974.

Sister Annette received a BS degree from the College of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station, New Jersey, and an MS from Central Connecticut State College in New Britain, Connecticut, in Elementary Education. In her 55 years of religious life, Sister Annette faithfully ministered as a classroom teacher, Vice-Principal, and Principal, serving in the (arch) dioceses of Hartford and Providence. Blessed with the gift of music, Sister Annette generously shared her angelic voice and musical talents wherever she ministered. In her community leadership roles, Sister Annette was appointed convent Superior and elected Provincial Councilor.

In her tribute, Sister Elizabeth Toft who was a companion to Sister Annette during the years of initial formation, offered these thoughts, *“It was with tremendous joy that Sister Annette handed over her life to God completely and forever by her Perpetual Oblation. ...She excelled in all she did. She was a prayerful, dedicated Religious Teacher Filippini, and was devoted in a special way to the Blessed Mother and to the Rosary... Her schools were touched by her creativity and love of learning about God’s Word, Jesus. She was loved by her students, parents, and parishioners... She left a handprint on our hearts.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in attendance at Sister Annette’s funeral, remarked, *“Upon my arrival at Villa Walsh last month, I was very anxious to visit with Sister Annette. When asked by Sister Ascenza, ‘How are you doing?’ In an immediate upbeat response, Sister Annette answered, ‘God is so good!’ What a faith-filled reply! Only a relationship of trust and surrender to the Lord could enable her to so readily respond ‘God is so good!’ The single sentiment I want to express today is my personal and deep gratitude to Sister Annette. I admired her generosity in sharing her gift of song...at many of our community events. ... Her gift of song made a positive impression and her joy, her ease, and the enthused spirit that accompanied her performances always made a difference at our gatherings. Thank you, Sister Annette, for sharing your gift with the community!”*

In his homily, Reverend Father Stephen Sledesky, the principal celebrant of the Liturgy noted, *“Sister Annette was fiercely loyal. She would give her utmost best... If she were your friend, she would be there for you no matter what. If she were your teacher, she would dedicate herself to your growth and learning. ... If she were the principal of your school, she would be committed to its success. Whenever she took on a task, she always saw it through to completion. Today, we not only celebrate her life so selflessly given over to others in service of Our Lord, but we recognize that she, too, was and is on the receiving end of another’s fierce loyalty to her: the fierce loyalty of Our Lord.*

From her very beginning, God had chosen her. In the waters of Baptism, she first accepted the call to be a disciple of Christ. ... And when she took on, not only the Baptismal garment, but also the habit of the Religious Teachers Filippini, once again she rooted her identity in Christ. ... For the Lord, through His death and Resurrection, conquered death and united Sister Annette in that Mystery of His dying and rising so that what we celebrate here is not her death so much, but her being born into eternal life. ... Her passing took place on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. ... There is something very powerful in that because ... Jesus, who died on the Cross, exalted before us on that day, the 14th of September, came for her, took her by the hand, and led her into His Kingdom, where she will never walk alone for she truly walks with God.”

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



Sister Ann Marie Mecca, MPF

✻ **Dunmore, Pennsylvania** **May 6, 1935**

✝ **Morristown, NJ.** **October 1, 2023**



Sister Ann Marie Mecca, MPF, died peacefully on October 1, 2023, at Saint Joseph Hall, Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. She was 88 years of age.

Sister Ann Marie was born on May 6, 1935, in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, and was raised in a large and loving family. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on August 27, 1950, received the religious habit on September 2, 1951, and made her Oblation on August 22, 1954. Sister Ann Marie studied Elementary Education and earned a BS and MA degree from Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey.

In her 72 years of religious life, Sister Ann Marie served as a classroom teacher, Principal, and catechist in the following (arch) dioceses: Baltimore, Hartford, Metuchen, Newark, New York, Ogdensburg, Paterson, and Trenton. In addition, Sister Ann Marie was appointed a local convent Superior. One of her greatest joys was ministering to the Sisters in the Infirmary at Villa Walsh. Sister generously offered assistance wherever needed. Due to declining health, Sister Ann Marie transitioned to Saint Joseph Hall in 2017.

Father Charles Kelly offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday, October 5, 2023, in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh.

Sister Patricia Pompa, Provincial Superior, in her words of welcome to those in attendance stated, *“Our faith and belief in the Resurrection gives us comfort and hope even though our hearts are saddened by Sister Ann Marie’s passing. This parting message is what Sister Ann Marie wanted to share: ‘I entered the convent at 15 years old. If I had my life to live over again, I would do the same thing because I loved being a Filippini Sister. I loved every class that I taught. I enjoyed ... working in the Infirmary. I enjoyed taking care of the Sisters when they were sick...bringing them trays...and giving them daily care. I enjoyed working in the Archives, Music Library, and especially the Chapel. I loved making homemade pasta.’ Sister Ann Marie ended her comments by saying, ‘Thank*

you for a wonderful life!’ As we prepare to celebrate this Sacred Liturgy, we thank Almighty God for Sister Ann Marie’s wonderful life of generous, loving, and joy-filled service that knew no bounds!”

In her eulogy, Sister Marie Antonelli offered these thoughts: “I first met Sister Ann Marie in 1972 when I was assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Newark, [New Jersey]. Sister Ann Marie was a happy and peaceful person to be missioned with...She had many gifts and was always willing to share them with everyone. Sister Ann Marie spread Christ’s Word in all she did. She was pivotal in the lives of so many...especially the students she taught. They loved her...Through the years many would return to seek her advice as they moved on in life...Today we celebrate her union with her Bridegroom as He welcomes her tenderly into His Kingdom.

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her remarks shared, “How grateful I am to still be among you today, so appreciative for this opportunity to personally express my sympathy to Sister Ann Marie’s family, and to add my sentiments to the tribute we render Sister Ann Marie at this Eucharistic celebration. Sister Ann Marie’s passing...recalls her joyful, helpful, generous, multifaceted presence among us. ... Many years ago, Sister Ann Marie became a slave of Mary. ... In her days of good health, she faithfully daily walked these grounds praying the Rosary in hand. How timely that the Lord has called her home during this special month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. Amid today’s grief, what a joy and consolation to know that Our Lady to whom Sister Ann Marie was so loyal and mindful throughout her life, awaits her and assures her that her loyalty is not that of a slave but of a loving daughter. ... How powerful is the tenderness of our Mother! Queen of the Holy Rosary, pray for us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, accompany each of us in our final hour.”

Sister Ann Marie Mecca’s mortal remains rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.



Sister Esterina De Giorgi, MPF

✱ **Andrano LE**

March 7, 1931

✠ **Rome**

October 10, 2023



Sister Esterina De Giorgi was born in Andrano LE on March 7, 1931, and entered the Institute on September 17, 1955. She received the religious habit of the Maestra Pia Filippini on August 30, 1956, and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 30, 1959.

After her initial formation, Sister Esterina was in various communities: Bitonto BA, Rome-Largo Santa Lucia Filippini, Nettuno RM, Sala Consilina SA, Aliminusa LE, Vignacastri LE, Varoni di Montesarchio BN, Naples. In some instances, she returned to the same location and assumed the office of local superior.

Sister Esterina served in the apostolic mission of the community in various activities: parish catechist, teacher-educator in the nursery school, assistant to orphans and boarders, and collaborator in the embroidery workshop.

Sister Esterina loved prayer and was always present for community events. Mild, discreet, simple, and reserved, she inspired trust and understanding, knowing how to interact with everyone with

intuition and empathy. Willingly she put her talents of ingenuity and creative manual skills at the disposal of the community, collaborating particularly with her sisters who were engaged in the preparation of embroidered sets and packages, etc. given for public recognition.

Possessing a kind and polite character, Sister Esterina was available to anyone who was in difficulty. In nursery school, she knew how to relate well with the little ones and also with the parents who always respected her for her amiability in listening to family concerns. When possible, she managed to create peaceful outcomes among them, especially during the time that she spent in Sicily.

Of delicate constitution and fragile health, Sister Esterina tried not to make her discomforts weigh on her, limiting her requests to the essentials. She knew how to be attentive and caring for each sister and often surprised them with some special attention.

In recent years, when school activities were no longer possible due to age limits and precarious health, Sister Esterina dedicated herself to serving as a receptionist at the door and also assisted in the kitchen. Throughout this time, she never abandoned her hobby of embroidery. It is in this area that she not only taught but revealed herself as a true artist.

When transferred to Volto Santo, she collaborated in extending herself to helping the elderly and infirm sisters until she needed personal assistance. Her sister, Sister Rita, also a Maestra Pia, was lovingly at her side in the final days of her life. The Lord called Sister Esterina to himself on October 10, 2023.

Sister Esterina De Giorgi's mortal remains rest in the family tomb in Andrano LE cemetery, her birthplace.



Sister Assunta Rinaldi, MPF

✻ **Dunmore, Pennsylvania** **July 8, 1931**
✚ **Morristown, NJ.** **November 16, 2023**



Sister Assunta Rinaldi, MPF died peacefully on November 16, 2023, at Saint Joseph Hall, Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. She was 92 years of age.

Sister Assunta was born on July 8, 1931, in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, and was raised in a large and loving family. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on September 10, 1945, received the religious habit on June 15, 1947, and made her Oblation on July 2, 1950. Sister Assunta earned a BS degree in Elementary Education from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey.

In her 76 years of religious life, Sister Assunta faithfully ministered as a classroom teacher, nursery aide, catechist, and instructional aide in the (arch) dioceses of Camden, Metuchen, Newark, Norwich, Paterson and Trenton. In 2022, due to declining health, Sister Assunta transitioned to Saint Joseph Hall.

Father Joseph Ferraro offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, November 25, 2023, in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh. The Liturgy was concelebrated by Father Ronald Sordillo.

In his homily, Father Joseph Ferraro offered these thoughts: *“Sister Assunta arrived at Saint Anthony of Padua, Belleville, New Jersey, shortly after my eighth grade graduation. In Sister Assunta’s 76 years of religious life, she faithfully lived her ministry as a Maestra Pia to the fullest, following the example of love of Mother Foundress, Saint Lucy Filippini. Sister Assunta touched the lives of the many students she taught through the years. She dried the tears of children in her care in the nursery schools, as well as shared her faith and love of Jesus and his Blessed Mother as she nurtured the children in the faith. She used her God-given talents and her skills...all for the honor and glory of God the Father. Sister Assunta, may you rest in peace.”*

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, a longtime friend of Sister Assunta, was unable to attend the funeral Mass. He sent this message, *“I wish to extend my sincere condolences to Sister Patricia, to all Religious Teachers Filippini and to Sister Assunta’s dear family, and many friends at her death. We have watched her, accompanied by our prayers and the loving care of her community, gradually fade and pass peacefully from our midst. The untold good she did in extending herself to others, her devout prayer life and her living as a Maestra Pia now plead before the throne of God’s grace. Our prayers now join her good works. May God look lovingly on her whom he has called to himself and bring her to the fullness of life in heaven.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy remarked, *“How grateful I was for the opportunity to spend some time with Sister Assunta during my recent visit to the United States! On my first visit, edified by her initial greeting ‘You know, I am dying,’ words whispered with such peace and calm, flowed so unexpectedly that they still resonate. The words implied Sister Assunta’s acceptance and readiness to take this final journey with ease. ... For some years, in the quiet and hollow of each morning, Sister Assunta rose early to start her day with a private holy hour in this chapel, before the community gathered for Morning Prayer. She found this strengthening. ... No doubt, it was during these years that she reinforced a very strong, trusting relationship with God the Father. How often she referred to God the Father’s presence in her life and freely shared His goodness in her conversation with others. And now she experiences His love and fidelity from an ever deeper perspective. ... For all this, today, let us give thanks!”*

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

