

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

Generalate – Rome

Necrology n. 37 January- June 2024





Sister Ada Zappa, MPF

✿ Ateleta AQ
✠ Cleveland, OH, USA

September 20, 1937
January 18, 2024

Sister Ada (Elisa Vincenza) Zappa, was born in Ateleta AQ on September 20, 1937. She was attracted by the mission of Saint Lucy Filippini and entered the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on September 7, 1958. She received the religious habit on August 30, 1959, and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 28, 1962.

Dedicating her life to educating children and young people in school and catechesis was Sister Ada's chief mission. She served in both commitments with great attention, with a sense of responsibility, and a deep love for Christ and the Church.

Sister Ada served in various communities of the Institute: Rome, Largo Santa Lucia Filippini; Rome-Via delle Fornaci, Anzio RM, Nettuno RM, Frascati RM. In Frascati, where she spent many years, students enjoyed and had the opportunity to know Sister Ada more closely. They appreciated and experienced her concern, kindness, attentive gaze for the protection of the little children, and also her benevolence and understanding for adults.

In the last years of her ministry, Sister Ada was a very precious presence as the receptionist, presenting herself kindly, and welcoming, and was a reassuring voice of the school.

Her sister companions remember Sister Ada for the good she accomplished especially for the loving service given to the community and for the kind words offered with simplicity and graciousness to adults and children alike. She often shared anecdotes from her youth that most enchanted her listeners. With a sense of responsibility and precision, Sister Ada carried out her tasks at all times generous, helpful, and caring. She loved Saint Lucy our Mother Foundress and was committed to imitating her and spreading her devotion.

While Sister Ada lived a simple, ordinary life, it did not diminish in its rich and fruitful spirit. She gave herself fully to God and was consumed in faithful service to the Church.

Years ago, Sister Ada's family had moved to Cleveland, Ohio, USA. When her health declined, Sister Ada requested to return to the States to be close to her family. In her last days, her sister and other family members affectionately assisted her in her fragile condition. She passed away in Cleveland on Thursday, January 18, 2024.

Sister Ada Zappa's mortal remains are in Holy Cross Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio, USA.





Sister Elizabeth Szilvasi, MPF

✿ Ellwood City, Pennsylvania

August 6, 1937

✠ Morristown, NJ.

January 19, 2024

Sister Elizabeth Szilvasi, MPF, died peacefully at the age of 86 on Friday, January 19, 2024, at Saint Joseph Hall, Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

A native of Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, Sister Elizabeth influenced by the witness and first-hand good example of the *Maestre Pie* who ministered in her hometown entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on July 11, 1953. She received the religious habit on August 22, 1954, and made her Oblation on July 7, 1957. Sister Elizabeth studied Elementary Education, earning a BS degree from Mount Saint Joseph College in Wakefield, Rhode Island, and an MS degree from the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

In her 69 years of religious life, Sister Elizabeth ministered as a classroom teacher and principal. She faithfully served in the (arch) dioceses of Albany, Cleveland, Hartford, Newark, Ogdensburg, Providence, and Trenton. In addition, Sister Elizabeth served the community as a local convent superior in Watertown, New York, and Akron, Ohio, where she also served as principal for more than thirty years. In 2022, due to declining health, Sister Elizabeth retired to Saint Joseph Hall at Villa Walsh.

Reverend Monsignor Sylvester Cronin offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday, January 25, 2024, in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh. Monsignor stated, *“As we gather to celebrate Holy Mass together for Sister Elizabeth’s soul, we know well that God loves her. We know well that God loves us, and at our death, He does not abandon us, but comes and takes us to the place that has been promised since the beginning of time.”*

Sister Barbara Takacs, a friend of Sister Elizabeth since childhood gave a heartwarming tribute to her dear friend. She recalled, *“Sister Elizabeth grew up in a closely knit family and was the youngest of five children. When she was six months old her father died While she never knew her father, the love and support of her mother and older siblings helped her grow into a loving and giving person. ... We attended Purification BVM School and were taught by a wonderful group of Religious Teachers Filippini... We became close to the Sisters and helped them whenever asked. ... together we entered Villa Walsh on July 11th. As a true follower of Saint Lucy Filippini, Sister Elizabeth embraced the spirit of Saint Lucy in dedicating her life to the service of God, the Church and the Christian education of youth.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province offered: *“In my experience and association with Sister Elizabeth, so many attributes immediately come to mind, her goodness, thoughtfulness, and generosity high among them. Though quiet, and serene by nature and appearance, she enjoyed people and laughter and was so approachable ... In addition to her responsibilities at school, Sister Elizabeth enjoyed other hobbies and interests. So proud of her garden, she planted both simple and exotic flowers and vegetables that served and allowed her to generously share its harvest. Cooking and baking were also among the gifts she shared. ... And so, Sister Elizabeth, your tireless commitment will forever remain carved in our hearts. You have shared a sterling presence among us that encourages us with a strong desire to do good. Today may you find your reward in God’s heavenly presence and receive God’s welcome into His Kingdom.”*

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

Sister Clara Pendenza, MPF



✱ **Tagliacozzo AQ** **October 05, 1927**

✠ **Rome** **January 31, 2024**

Sister Clara Pendenza, born in Tagliacozzo AQ on October 5, 1927, entered the Institute on January 2, 1945, received the religious habit of the Maestra Pia Filippini on December 8, 1945, and made her Perpetual Oblation on October 3, 1948.

Sister Clara served in various locations: Corese Terra RI, Rome-Via Sangemini, Sulmona AQ, Rome-Via Laurentina, Sala Consilina SA, Padula SA, Celleno VT, Rome-Via Trevignano Romano.

Dedicated to the apostolic mission of the Maestre Pie Filippini, she carried out various activities: catechist in parish pastoral care and animator of prayer groups on the Word of God; teacher in the nursery school, shorthand typing teacher, assistant in the religious formation of aspirants and novices; laboratory teacher (sewing and embroidery), collaborator and assistant in internship activities for orphans and young students of the school.

Sister Clara will be remembered for her delicate and patient gift in caring for the little ones in the nursery school and with the children in the catechesis group, affable with the parents and the other teachers, a skilled guide and supporter of the young people who were embarking on a future in professional or consecrated life. With vigor and creativity, she imparted life lessons, drawing from her long and proven experience.

Following the Vatican Council, the Institute responded to the reform by proposing to modify the traditional religious habit. Sister Clara actively collaborated in the making of various models and, subsequently, over the years, with her precise and accurate seamstress's fingers stitched habits and hundreds of "new" cuffias (bonnets) for the Maestre.

Directly or indirectly, all the sisters in their community life have received some benefit from Sister Clara, and with gratitude, they preserve the memory of the serene joviality, the cordial welcome, and the tireless service she rendered.

Sister Clara spent her days thinking about and providing for others, whether they were solemn occasions or simple needs of everyday life. Anyone could turn to her with the certainty that she would work to help solve the problem. Having everyone's good at heart, she was supportive and tried to help as best she could, especially the poorest of families.

Animated by a fervent apostolic spirit, Sister Clara committed herself to living and teaching how important and vital it is to cultivate a filial attitude of prayer. As long as her strength allowed her, Sister Clara never failed to solicit, within the neighborhood apartments, the establishment of "Word" listening groups which she took care of, collaborating in parish pastoral care.

Sister Clara considered her participation in Sunday Mass to be an indispensable and effective testimony, at the end of which she engaged in dialogue, illuminating the path of many with the gaze of mercy. Even today, despite the interruption of these contacts, some people are interested in her with affection and admiration, recalling the edifying moments of their encounters.

Since her young age, Sister Clara required medical care due to the fragility of her health, which, however, did not prevent her from reaching the venerable age foreseen for her in God's plan. The Lord whom she loved so greatly and made loved on earth, so deeply, called her to him, suddenly, on January 31, 2024.

Sister Clara Pendenza's mortal remains rest in the Institute's tomb, in the cemetery at Scurcola Marsicana AQ.



Sister Franca Guida, MPF

✿ Sannicola LE

March 29, 1948

✝ Rome

February 11, 2024

Sister Franca Guida, born in Sannicola LE on March 29, 1948, entered the Institute on February 3, 1964, and received the religious habit of the Maestra Pia Filippini on August 30, 1964. She made her Temporary Oblation on August 27, 1967, and her Perpetual Oblation on August 23, 1970.

The various communities where Sister Franca ministered were: Castel del Giudice AQ, Sulmona AQ, Castellafiume AQ, Roma-Via delle Fornaci, Rome-Via Trevignano Romano, Otranto LE, Sala Consilina SA, Montemaggiore Belsito PA, Bitonto BA. She carried out her mission of Maestra Pia through the different tasks assigned to her: an assistant in a nursery school, a cook, a catechist, and a teacher in the elementary school. Always filled with passion, creativity, and joyfully dedicated, she will be especially remembered above all as a resident at “Volto Santo” the home where she resided since her first illness.

Sister Franca, with an extremely cheerful and open nature, frank like her name, was lively, smiling and cheerful, enthusiastic about consecrated life, available and generous towards everyone. For many years with professionalism and competence, she cultivated excellent personal and group rapport among students, families, and pastoral workers in the parish.

Strongly hindered by her illness, Sister Franca accepted it as a new possibility of offering herself to the Lord and of dedicating her life now to the sisters who were also vulnerable. She dedicated all her energies at “Volto Santo” where she sowed joy and liveliness among the sisters and established relationships of trust and collaboration with each of them. Her human qualities, particularly her good nature and her joy of living were manifested in her gestures and words which made her presence pleasant and attractive among the other patients.

Depending on the liturgical season, Sister Franca animated the various celebrations with songs related to that time of year. Possessing the gift of “golden hands” the industrious artist loved making the rooms of the house increasingly welcoming with decorations and ornaments. Who hasn't received some little gift from her, made with straw? She specialized in reproducing the Face of the Suffering Christ in this way! She happily made bouquets of multi-colored flowers, using shells, seeds, pasta of various shapes, or recycled material.

As long as her illness allowed, she also provided service to the community as a driver. She often accompanied the sisters to the Gemelli Polyclinic. Sister Franca was at home at “Cristo Re” hospital, known and respected by the doctors and staff. She knew how to handle every matter, constituting a “strong arm” in helping and caring for her sisters.

Sick among the sick, Sister Franca did not make her condition a burden. Instead, she always insisted that she take care of the needs of others first. Subsequently, her physical condition worsened and she became bedridden. Her suffering was long and painful, undergoing several complicated surgical operations, which she accepted with patience, firm faith, serenity, and courage. On February 11, 2024, the Blessed Virgin Mary, honored in her apparition in Lourdes, welcomed Sister Franca and accompanied her into the eternal Kingdom to sing the praises of the Lord, her beloved Spouse.

Sister Franca Guida's mortal remains rest in the Institute's tomb in the cemetery at Nettuno RM.

Sister Lucille Fitzpatrick, MPF



✿ Middletown, Connecticut

May 22, 1931

✙ Morristown, NJ.

March 5, 2024

Sister Lucille Fitzpatrick, MPF, died peacefully at the age of 92 on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at Saint Joseph Hall, Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born on May 22, 1931, in Middletown, Connecticut, Sister Lucille was the oldest of the three children of John and Lucille (Culver) Fitzpatrick. As a young adult, Sister Lucille embraced the Catholic faith. Discerning a further call to religious life, Sister Lucille entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on August 17, 1951, received the religious habit on August 31, 1952, and made her Oblation on July 3, 1955. She earned a BS degree in Elementary Education at the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey.

In her seventy-one years of religious life, Sister Lucille faithfully ministered as a primary classroom teacher in the (arch) dioceses of Baltimore, Newark, New York, Ogdensburg, Providence and Scranton. She was an avid reader and utilized her skills as a librarian in the Dioceses of Camden and Paterson. As a competent librarian, Sister Lucille served at Villa Walsh Academy in Morristown, New Jersey, for thirteen years. For almost thirty years of her apostolic life, Sister Lucille served as an efficient librarian, a devoted secretary and a meticulous bookkeeper at Villa Victoria Academy in Trenton, New Jersey. In 2015, Sister Lucille retired to Saint Joseph Hall.

The Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, offered the Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Lucille in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Monday, March 11, 2024.

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province wrote, *“My first vivid recall of Sister Lucille was her stellar reputation as the librarian at Villa Walsh Academy and her availability to assist and offer advice to our librarians in our parish schools. Later, I came to know Sister better as Villa Victoria Academy’s competent bookkeeper. ... When ill health demanded, Sister Lucille left Villa Victoria and entered Saint Joseph Hall, it was a challenging move, yet her resilience was commendable. During her years at the Infirmary there were always signs of gratitude for the blessings it provided. ... Never losing her great love and interest for Villa Victoria, she indulged in hearing Villa’s news and progress. No doubt Villa Victoria has a new patron in heaven!”*

In her words of tribute, Sister Lesley Draper, who lived and worked with Sister Lucille at Villa Victoria, shared, *“Throughout her life as a Religious Teacher Filippini, Sister Lucille embodied the words of the psalmist: ‘I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his Word I put my hope.’ (Psalm 130:5) ... Sister Lucille sometimes was called the lady-in-waiting because she was always ahead of schedule and then sat waiting for the next event that was to happen... She seemed perfectly content to sit peacefully waiting using the time for prayer and reflection. In no way does this mean that Sister Lucille was inactive. In fact, it was just the opposite. ... She ran the business office of the school and was very conscientious about her work; her skillfulness resulted in a well-run office. She also served as the convent sacristan for many years. ... When not working in the office or chapel, Sister Lucille enjoyed a variety of hobbies: caring for plants, reading, crocheting baby blankets and hats, and lovingly caring for the convent cat. ... This past week the day finally came when Sister Lucille no longer had to wait. Like one of the wise virgins, she was prepared by a lifetime of waiting on the Lord... May we learn from Sister Lucille’s example of patient waiting, gentleness, and appreciation of all the details God shares with us in His created world. May we, like Sister Lucille, orient our whole being toward the Lord and hope in His word.”*

Sister Lucille Fitzpatrick’s mortal remains rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Sister Rosalia Arcara, MPF



✿ Montemaggiore Belsito PA

February 23, 1936

✝ Rome, Policlinico "A. Gemini"

March 20, 2024

Sister Rosa (Rosalia) Arcara, born in Montemaggiore Belsito PA on February 23, 1936, entered the Institute on September 4, 1954, received her religious habit of Maestra Pia Filippini on August 30, 1956, and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 30, 1959.

Sister Rosa was missioned in various locations: Piacenza, Casteldelgiudice CB, Basel (Switzerland), Tarquinia VT, Rome-Via delle Fornaci, Cagliari, Rome-Via Caboto, Anzio RM, Rome-Via Laurentina, Castel Gandolfo RM, Torre del Greco NA, Naples. A jovial, thoughtful person, enthusiastic in witnessing to her consecrated life and the charism of the Maestra Pia Filippini, this is the legacy Sister Rosa leaves behind.

A woman of sacrifice, one who loved life, even during her long years fighting leukemia, with tenacity and patience, she bore the pain of this illness. Each day while undergoing a form of chemotherapy, despite this burden, she led a normal life, suffering and bearing this challenge quietly.

During her years in the nursery school, Sister Rosa cared for the needs of the children and educated their parents too. With the parents, she favored prayer meetings on the Word of God. She encouraged parent participation in the association "*Maestre Pie and Laity together for the Gospel*" meetings held in Rome. The groups she coordinated in Torre del Greco and Naples were quite large.

In her later years, Sister Rosa willingly served at the door and took advantage of this daily encounter to say a good word to both the students and the parents who often asked for advice on practical good living. She adapted to providing service in the community, taking into account the various needs, even in the kitchen, concerned that her sisters could keep themselves in good health.

Even when Sister Rosa's physical strength continued to weaken, her spirit of the apostolate never diminished. In Naples, where she had created small prayer groups, the families gathered in their apartments. They became "*listening centers*" for the occasion, reciting the holy rosary together and sharing the Word using *lectio divina*. Even today, years later, people remember Sister Rosa with joy and gratitude, especially those belonging to the "*Santa Maria del Soccorso*" Parish, where she shared the apostolate, and was honored in a particular way on her fiftieth anniversary of religious life.

At the end of the day on March 20, 2024, the Lord called Sister Rosa to himself and granted her eternal rest. From heaven Sister Rosa will continue to pray for the Institute, her family, and all those she loved and served faithfully.

Sister Rosa Arcara's mortal remains rest in the family tomb in the cemetery at Montemaggiore Belsito PA .



Sister Elisa Barone, MPF



*** S. Angelo a Fasanella SA**
† Rome

November 28, 1935
March 27, 2024

Sister Elisa Barone, born in S. Angelo a Fasanella SA on November 28, 1935, entered the Institute on October 10, 1952, received the religious habit of Maestra Pia Filippini on July 4, 1954; made her Perpetual Oblation on September 1, 1957.

Sister Elisa ministered in the communities of Nettuno RM, San Giorgio di Livenza VE, Sala Consilina SA, Anzio RM, Aliminusa PA, Andrano LE, Otranto LE, Torre del Greco NA, Teggiano SA.

Sister Elisa served in her apostolate first as a teacher in private nursery schools, then in the state school, and also as a parish catechist. She served, too, as a collaborator in various tasks in the community: reception service, kitchen, and at the door.

With a simple and affable character, open to dialogue and discussion, Sister Elisa was a humble, gentle, and welcoming person. Everyone felt at ease with her and appreciated her thoughtfulness and wisdom. Always serene and carrying a soft smile, she knew how to address children and adults with discretion and respect and prudently corrected, advised, and encouraged others.

Sister Elisa's promptness and availability towards both her lay colleagues and her sisters were truly admirable. With her attentive and supportive gaze, Sister Elisa understood the needs of others, willingly made herself available to those who needed help, and with a great sense of responsibility and spirit of sacrifice, she dedicated herself to everyone and everything.

Many characteristics define Sister Elisa. Most importantly among them, she loved the Lord, prayed willingly, and invited people to pray. She gave testimony to a simple and firm faith. Her tender devotion to the Madonna and our Holy Mother Foundress was so visible. Faithful to the commitments of Consecrated Life, Sister Elisa had a strong sense of belonging to the Institute.

Over the years, a long exercise in patience and serene offering was required of Sister Elisa. Illness and the numerous domestic accidents affected her. In fact, one last fall occurred shortly before her death and contributed to her passing.

During the last weeks of Sister Elisa's life, she quietly and calmly lay, waiting patiently and peacefully for the Lord's final call. On the evening of March 27, 2024, Wednesday of Holy Week, Sister Elisa slipped away ready to celebrate Easter with her Spouse.

Sister Elisa Barone's mortal remains rest in the Institute's tomb in the cemetery at Scurcola Marsicana AQ





Sister Anna Pompei, MPF

✱ Baltimore, Maryland

November 10, 1922

✠ Morristown, NJ.

April 22, 2024

Sister Anna Pompei, MPF died peacefully on April 22, 2024, at Saint Joseph Hall, Healthcare Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. She was 101 years of age.

Born on November 10, 1922, in Baltimore, Maryland, Sister Anna grew up in a loving and faith-filled family. On June 25, 1936, Sister Anna entered the Religious Teachers Filippini, received the religious habit on June 10, 1939, and made her Oblation on August 23, 1942.

Earning a teaching certificate from Villa Walsh Normal School in 1946, Sister Anna attended numerous conferences and professional development workshops, throughout her many years in elementary education. In 1994, Sister Anna was chosen by her colleagues in the Diocese of Trenton to be honored as “Outstanding Educator of the Year.”

In her 84 years of religious life, Sister Anna served as classroom teacher, principal, and catechist. She ministered in the (arch) dioceses of Baltimore, Cleveland, Hartford, Newark, Paterson, and Trenton. In addition, Sister Anna was appointed local convent Superior. At the age of 101, due to declining health, Sister Anna transitioned to Saint Joseph Hall.

The Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, April 26, 2024, in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh. Father Ronald Sordillo was the concelebrant.

In his homily, Bishop Serratelli offered these thoughts: *“The Lord has taken Sister Anna from our midst. We grieve not for her but for the loss of her presence among us for more than a century. In all of her twenty-one assignments, she was pleasant, prayerful, and extremely thoughtful of others. In her quiet and gentle way, she constantly looked for ways to help others. She had a special care and concern for the sick, ever interested in their welfare and their health. ... More than any word that could be said of her today, her life itself speaks of her great cooperation with God’s grace, especially as a member of this Community ever since she was thirteen years old. This past Monday evening, our Crucified and Risen Lord looked down on this house and saw Sister Anna’s life radiating His grace and beauty. And ever so silently, so gently, He took her from our midst to the Father’s House where He had prepared a place for her to enjoy the glory of His presence.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy remarked, *“During Sister Anna’s years in retirement at Villa Walsh, she leaves behind a roadmap for each of us to create a lifestyle that makes these years as fruitful and as life-giving as her teaching ministry. While her health still prevailed, Sister Anna assisted in any area where help was needed. ... However, over and above her areas of service, her presence at prayer, meals, and community functions were the priorities of her life in common... She shared that she prayed every night to have a peaceful passing, a prayer which was answered. Sister Anna found her fortification in her life of prayer and her love for our Blessed Mother. The fruit of her prayer filtered through her demeanor, which was peaceful and consistently affable and approachable. Thoughtfulness, generosity, and sharing with others were just a part of who Sister Anna was to so many. ... Sister Anna closes her last chapter and now enters a new life. Presenting her book of life, she reaps its reward. Each chapter has brought her closer to this great venture of meeting the God who has made all these good works possible in her, a God who remains faithful both in life and death, thus her Spouse accepts her into the glory of His Kingdom. ‘Come, my Beloved!’ Sister Anna, rest in peace.”*

Sister Anna Pompei’s mortal remains were laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.



Sister Antonietta Martignetti, MPF

✿ **Montefalcione AV**

June 6, 1933

✝ **Rome**

April 30, 2024

Sister Antonietta Martignetti, born in Montefalcione AV on June 6, 1933, entered the Institute on October 7, 1952, received the religious habit of Maestra Pia Filippini on July 4, 1954, and made her Perpetual Oblation on September 1, 1957.

Sister Antonietta spent her life as a Maestra Pia totally dedicating herself to the service of her sisters in the communities of Rome-Via Laurentina, Rome-Via delle Fornaci, Rome-Via Mario Fani, Rome-Via Missori.

Endowed with a lively and ready intelligence, with a strong and tenacious nature, Sister Antonietta was sociable and open. She exhibited various interests with a desire to learn and improve her knowledge and possessed an extraordinary ability to understand and deeply grasp every situation.

Sister Antonietta solved problems that arose with serenity and trust both in herself and others. She was hardworking, and tireless, even at the cost of personal sacrifice. She never held back when there was an emergency to be faced or to provide for others' needs. Sensitive and kind, thoughtful and attentive, Sister Antonietta knew how to communicate and direct those with whom she collaborated, calling their attention and giving direction on how to perform better.

Living her life in total surrender to the Lord whose presence she experienced in the ordinary experiences of life, she was firm in her principles of faith. She spent a long time in prayer and in silence offered to the Lord whatever she did, never considering her fatigue.

Destined to collaborate in the reception at the "Auxilium Christianorum" House in Rome, (Missori) she lived her commitment with joy, in fraternal communion with her sisters and in cordiality towards the guests (university students, pilgrims, and tourists) who frequented the House. Because the mission of Auxilium Christianorum was to financially support the missionary works of the Institute, she felt this responsibility and spent all her energies of mind, and heart, aware of being fully "missionary" in the spirit of Saint Lucy as she joyfully fulfilled her role.

Sister Antonietta was a very generous Maestra Pia, who had a strong sense of belonging to the Institute. She was proud to be able to talk about this to those she met, in the delicate service at the door. She showed everyone the joy of welcoming and giving of herself, even when she was struggling to move, and also needed assistance.

After a long infirmity and quiet suffering, lived in faith and with courage at Volto Santo on April 30, 2024, Sister Antonietta finished her earthly journey and was called by her heavenly Spouse into eternal joy. She strongly desired that here on earth she would echo her gratitude to the Lord for the love with which she always felt surrounded, with the liturgical hymn "*Te Deum Laudamus*" which was sung at the close of her funeral services.

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



Sister Maria Teresa Vecchio, MPF

*** S. Angelo a Fasanella SA February 8, 1936**

† Rome June 9, 2024

Sister Maria Teresa Vecchio was born in S. Angelo a Fasanella SA, on February 8, 1936. She entered the Institute on January 6, 1952, received the religious habit of the Maestra Pia Filippini on September 4, 1955, and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 31, 1958.

In the communities of Bonea BN, Vignacastri LE, Cagliari, Castellafiume AQ, Sulmona AQ, Capena RM, Avezzano AQ, Nettuno-Casa del Sole RM, Vitulano BN, Sister Maria served as a teacher and educator in the private and state nursery schools. Among further roles of service, Sister Maria was a parish catechist, assistant teacher in a sewing workshop, and held the role of local superior.

Active and enterprising, no challenge blocked Sister Maria from involvement in our mission. After the sad experience of losing her mother from childhood, she learned to face every problem with serenity and courage. Fortunately, the affection of her stepmother supported and accompanied her through her trials.

Sister Maria, animated by a passion for education, dedicated herself to children and their families. With equal commitment, she also carried out the various domestic activities of a small community: gardening, cooking, and tailoring. Hardworking and available, she was ever ready to lend a hand to those who needed it.

Particularly sensitive and generous towards the poor, the sick, elderly, and lonely women, Sister Maria often cared for and visited them, brought them comfort, tidied up their homes, and did her utmost to provide for their many needs. She involved all who were able to give this service of Christian charity, especially the young people of the Parish Catholic Action Group.

Except for the care needed due to her numerous health problems, she sought nothing. Tenaciously attached to the observance of evangelical poverty, Sister Maria was careful to avoid the superfluous, and implemented as far as possible those virtuous behaviors that today we would call "reuse, functional recovery, recycling" (cf LS, 192).

Possessing a lively and playful character, Sister Maria had a knack for storytelling and entertaining. Open to new ideas, she loved learning and deepening her knowledge. She was especially interested in topics of spirituality and culture.

Sister Maria's simple and sincere faith became concrete in the constant prayer and apostolic ardor with which she announced the Word of the Lord to everyone. She encouraged the faithful in the practice of Christian life.

Very often Sister Maria teased, my name is "*Vecchio*" old, but my goal is always to be a young woman! Sister Maria spent the last years of her life at Volto Santo. Although she suffered, she made a peaceful transition. Her goal to meet her Bridegroom was fulfilled on June 9, 2024.

Sister Maria Vecchio's mortal remains rest in the Institute's tomb in Nettuno RM.

