

Generalate – Rome

Necrology n. 39 January – June 2025





Sister Angelica Cristiani, MPF

✿ Jersey City, NJ

April 23, 1924

✙ Morristown, NJ

January 13, 2025

Sister Angelica Cristiani, MPF, passed away peacefully on the morning of January 13, 2025, at Saint Joseph Hall, Health Care Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. She was 100 years of age.

Born on April 23, 1924, in Jersey City, New Jersey, Sister Angelica grew up in a loving and faith-filled family. On August 28, 1938, Sister Angelica entered the Religious Teachers Filippini, received the religious habit June 16, 1940 and made her Perpetual Oblation on August 22, 1943.

Having earned a BS degree in Elementary Education from the College of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station, New Jersey, Sister Angelica taught grades one through eight in the (arch)dioceses of Baltimore, Brooklyn, Metuchen, Newark, Philadelphia, and Trenton, and also served as principal and local convent Superior. When Sister Angelica retired from teaching, she graciously offered her culinary skills and services at Villa Walsh, Saint Joseph by the Sea Retreat House in South Mantoloking, New Jersey, and Villa Victoria in Ewing, New Jersey. In 2014, Sister Angelica transitioned to Villa Walsh, where she generously offered her services wherever needed. Due to declining health, Sister Angelica entered Saint Joseph Hall in December 2024.

The Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, January 18, 2025, in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh. The Liturgy was concelebrated by Father Ronald Sordillo.

In his homily, Bishop Serratelli offered these thoughts: *“Everywhere Sister Angelica went, she brought goodness, not of herself, but of the Lord. She chose to enter religious life as a young teenager, because Sister Angelica loved the Lord and wanted to help others love him as well. Teaching in six different dioceses, she was determined to help her students not only progress in their studies, but also in self-discipline and personal formation, especially determined to help them know and love the Lord as she did. As a dedicated religious, living the consecrated life for 87 years, she served the Lord where she was most needed.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy remarked, *“What a sense of awe surfaces when someone survives a hundred years! Yet, it is not the hundred years that prompt us to honor Sister Angelica today, but how she utilized these blessed years. Today we reverence her legacy because she cooperated with God’s grace and responsibly and wisely lived God’s gift of time. Through many of these years, Sister Angelica served as a teacher, principal, and superior. When retiring from the school setting, she assumed responsibilities in the convent, always very giving, generous, and hard working. Baking for the Sisters and gift giving brought her great pleasure and satisfaction. ... Sister Angelica accepted illness and her disabilities courageously. Amazingly, she survived a grave car accident, very determined to heal and to do whatever was necessary for her to regain strength and resume her responsibilities. Further, she endured serious heart surgeries. While her doctors exhibited more concern regarding her recovery, she bravely healed at Saint Joseph Hall with one repeated concern, ‘When can I return to Villa Victoria?’ ... Sister Angelica was nourished through her fidelity to prayer, which energized and sustained her in all these challenging situations. In her last years spent at Villa Walsh, she was very present in following the community’s daily schedule. When Sister Angelica could no longer work so ambitiously, and with declined eyesight, her prayer and her courage surfaced even more intensely. Each day, walker and all, she was a steady presence at the noonday rosary. Sister Angelica’s simple yet intense love for Our Lady, Saint Lucy, and her strong perseverant spirit and love of Community were exemplary. We are enriched by this memory she leaves with us. ... Rest in peace, dear Sister.*

Sister Angelica Cristiani’s mortal remains rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.



Sister Dolores Jensen, MPF

✿ Orange, NJ
✠ Troy Hills Center, N J

May 6, 1936
March 6, 2025

Sister Dolores Jensen, MPF, 88, died peacefully on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at Troy Hills Center in Parsippany, New Jersey.

Born in Orange, New Jersey, on May 6, 1936, Sister Dolores was a graduate of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on August 19, 1951, received the religious habit on August 31, 1952, and made her Perpetual Oblation on July 3, 1955. Sister Dolores studied Elementary Education, earning a BS degree from the College of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station, New Jersey.

During her 72 years of religious life, Sister Dolores generously and creatively ministered as an elementary school teacher in the (arch)dioceses of Baltimore, Bridgeport, Metuchen, Newark, Philadelphia, Santa Fe, Scranton, and Trenton. She served as Principal in the (arch)dioceses of Newark and Charleston. Additionally, Sister Dolores assumed the role of a local convent superior. Sister Dolores' last assignment was in 2000 when she and three other Sisters began their ministry at Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish and School in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Sister Dolores transitioned to Villa Walsh in 2016 due to health issues and in 2023, entered Saint Joseph Hall Infirmary.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Dolores was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

In his homily, the Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, observed, *“Today, as we hand back to God Sister Dolores, we do so, saddened by her passing, but grateful for God’s goodness she has shared with us. As an infant, she was baptized into Christ and died with Him, rising to new life. For 72 years, she deepened the mystery of her baptism as a consecrated religious, dying to self each day by faithfully living the evangelical counsels. The care and love that the sisters who taught her in her earliest years inspired her vocation. Like them, kind and self-sacrificing, she lived her life as a dedicated Maestra Pia Filippini. Serving in 9 different dioceses, she generously worked to form her students both academically and spiritually. Because of her goodness, she left a lasting remembrance wherever she served. Christ was the center of her life.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, wrote a letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province, in which she stated, *“Sister Dolores’ life was deeply shaped by her early experiences. After the loss of her mother, who died when Sister Dolores was only a child, she became very attached to the Filippini Sisters at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Orange, where Sister Anne Amato chiefly nurtured her vocation. Sister Dolores always carried a deep sense of gratitude for these early influences, especially for Sister Anne. More significantly, her lifelong gratitude as a member of our community has remained clearly visible. Her testimony through these years has inspired love and devotion to Saint Lucy, and she was proud and humbled to be accepted as a Filippini Sister. ... Sister Dolores contributed greatly to the life of the Province and the mission of the Institute. She was actively and faithfully involved in our schools. She loved children, and their love for her was equally strong. You could always count on her faithful presence for liturgical and social parish functions. In the local convent, she was a strong presence, trying always to make improvements whether it was in her capacity or not. ... Sister Dolores loved the excitement of new ventures which led her to readily accept new assignments both in South Carolina and New Mexico. ... Sister Dolores’ contributions during her years in active ministry will never be forgotten even though she spent these final nine years at Villa Walsh, facing the challenges of ill health. Sister Dolores continued to be a source of affection and support visiting and enjoying the other infirm Sisters. Her spirit of love and faith and her gift of song remain among those who shared these final years with her. While her song of praise no longer*

fills Trinity Chapel, there is no doubt that she has already joined the heavenly chorus. Sister Dolores, rest in peace.”

Sister Dolores Jensen’s mortal body rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.



Sister Concetta Russo, MPF

✻ **Waterbury, Connecticut**

June 27, 1925

✚ **Morristown, NJ**

March 17, 2025

Sister Concetta Russo, MPF, died peacefully on Monday, March 17, 2025, at Saint Joseph Hall, Health Care Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. She was 99 years of age.

Born in Waterbury, Connecticut on June 27, 1925, to a loving and faith-filled family, Sister Concetta came to know our community as a young woman and entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on August 19, 1951. She received the religious habit on August 31, 1952, and made her Perpetual Oblation on July 3, 1955. Sister Concetta studied English, earning a BA degree from the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island, and took additional courses in Library Science at Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) in Ewing, New Jersey.

In her 72 years of religious life, Sister Concetta served where needed and in varied capacities in the (arch)dioceses of Hartford, Newark, Paterson, Pittsburgh, and Providence. In the early years of her consecrated life, Sister Concetta ministered as an elementary classroom teacher, and as a vice-principal of an elementary school. She also served as a local convent superior. Sister Concetta returned to the Motherhouse at Villa Walsh in 1975, where she cared for the elderly and infirm Sisters, and diligently managed the convent spiritual center library.

From 1986 to 2014, Sister Concetta served the priests, seminarians, faculty, and students at the Monsignor James C. Turro Library at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, with an interest and dedication second-to-none. It was also during this period that Sister Concetta offered 15 years of service as a member of the Commission for Christian Unity of the Archdiocese of Newark. In 2014, Sister Concetta retired from her position at Seton Hall University to reside at Villa Walsh. In 2019, due to declining health, she transitioned to Saint Joseph Hall Infirmary.

The Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, offered the Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Concetta at Saint Lucy Chapel, Villa Walsh on Friday, March 21, 2025. Six priests concelebrated the Liturgy.

In his homily, Bishop Serratelli, who knew Sister Concetta from his years as a seminary professor, remarked, *“As librarian at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Sister Concetta not only helped us, both students and professors, find the information we needed, but by her cheerful disposition, she always lifted our spirits and directed our hearts to God. Her prayer life, her love of the Eucharist, her love of our Blessed Mother translated into her care and concern for others.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province shared, *“Whatever assignment Sister Concetta was given, she brought her full energy and dedication. We cannot forget the dedicated years Sister Concetta spent in Freytag Hall attending to the needs of our infirm sisters, although few at that time. Sister Concetta is most remembered, however, for her many years of service at the seminary library at Seton Hall where her efforts were very much appreciated by Monsignor Turro and also respected by the seminarians. How proud she was to receive invitations to be the lector at the first Mass of the newly ordained priests! ... At the core of Sister Concetta’s accomplishments, she was a woman of deep prayer, faithful to many devotions, especially to Our Blessed Mother. She strongly upheld our Constitutions and will be remembered for her integrity and goodness. ... Psalm 116 beautifully summarizes Sister Concetta’s life: ‘Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His faithful ones.’ May Sister Concetta now rest in eternal peace.”*

Sister Concetta Russo’s body rests in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.



Sister Rosa Cecere, MPF

✿ **Montesarchio BN**

July 4, 1930

✝ **Rome, Via Trevignano Romano**

March 19, 2025

Sister Rosa Cecere, born in Montesarchio BN on July 4, 1930, entered the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini on April 23, 1948, received the religious habit on October 15, 1950, and made the Perpetual Oblation on September 6, 1953.

The places where she rendered her services are numerous, and she returned to some of these assignments more than once. These include Settima PC, Rome-Via Caboto, Sulmona AQ, Nettuno “Casa del Sole” RM, Avezzano “San Simeo” AQ, Rome-Largo S. Lucia Filippini, Basel, Switzerland, Castel del Giudice IS, Frascati RM, Nettuno-Via Matteotti RM, Castel Gandolfo RM, Cave RM, Rome-Via delle Fornaci, Rocca di Papa RM, Rome-Via Sangemini, Rome-Via Missori, Rome-Via Trevignano Romano.

Wherever obedience called her, she dedicated herself entirely. She was a teacher in the nursery school and the embroidery workshop, an assistant to orphan girls and students. In some communities, Sister Rosa served as both local superior and bursar. When she retired from direct activity, she continued to be responsible at the reception desk and attended to simple domestic needs with willingness and joy. To summarize Sister Rose’s life, we only need a few significant phrases that express her lived attitudes: availability to others (families, children, and fellow sisters), dedication to the mission, and a sense of belonging to the Institute. Sister Rosa was discreet, respectful, and caring. As a skilled guide, she was attentive to the gifts of each person, capable of advising, supporting, and promoting others. A devoted daughter of Saint Lucy, she loved and grasped every opportunity to make her known.

Sister Rosa was a strong and tenacious woman, determined and autonomous in carrying out her commitments. At times, she could appear somewhat severe and demanding, however, this trait revealed her desire that everyone (children or adolescents) have the opportunity to develop their abilities.

She listened attentively to the victories and defeats of the little ones, and with an affectionate embrace, she knew how to dry their tears. Teachers and parents willingly exchanged life experiences with Sister Rosa, certain of finding an understanding heart, capable of supporting not only the needs of the little ones, but also adults.

In her last years, and even a few hours before her passing, she was available to the community, always ready to lend a hand where needed. On the evening of March 19, 2025, the liturgical feast of Saint Joseph, Sister Rosa left us in silence and with great grace. She was discreet in her life and even in her passing to the Promised Land, the House of the Father, to which she deeply aspired.

Sister Rosa Cecere's mortal remains are buried in the tomb of the Institute in the cemetery of Nettuno RM.



Sister Maria Da Guia Costa, MPF



✻ **Patos, Paraíba, Brazil**
✝ **São Paulo, Brazil**

November 15, 1945
April 23, 2025

Sister Maria Da Guia Costa, born in Patos, Paraíba, Brazil, on November 15, 1945, entered the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini, on April 13, 1969, received the religious habit on February 2, 1970, and made the Perpetual Oblation on January 13, 1975.

Sister Maria da Guia obtained a Diploma in Rome to teach Religion, Kindergarten, and to teach in the Primary School. She also earned a certificate from SENAI (Social Service for Industry), in Cutting and Sewing, and attended a course allowing her to teach English.

Sister Maria da Guia devoted her life to education, catechesis, social work, and apostolic missions across various communities in Brazil and abroad. She taught in both nursery and kindergarten in the public schools and was a catechist. She promoted vocations; and led social and job-preparation programs.

Notably, she served in Ireland, Juína (Mato Grosso), Peruíbe, Alto de Vila Maria, and various houses in São Paulo. In her later years, she directed and coordinated the Cutting and Sewing Course in the Social Project and in the Work Preparation Center "Cardinal Barbarigo."

Known as "the Teacher of Welcoming," Sister Maria da Guia was recognized for her kindness, her prayerful spirit, dedication to the Institute, and enthusiasm for consecrated life.

While residing in the Vice Provincial House, she coordinated the Social Project for the elderly "Joy of Living Together" and was responsible for welcoming the parish groups that held meetings in the Vice Provincial House.

She was always available and generous in all the activities and places where she was sent by the Superiors. A simple and good soul, she had a deep spirit of prayer, was enthusiastic about consecrated life, loved the Institute, and our Founders.

Struck by cancer, Sister Maria da Guia lived her Calvary for several years, with strength and patience, spreading peace and serenity around her. After a few days of agony, at dawn on April 23, 2025, during the octave of Easter, the Risen Christ welcomed her into his Kingdom.

The Community of the Vice Province is grateful to the Lord for the testimony of Sister Maria da Guia, so significant among the sisters and towards the people who had the privilege of knowing her.

Sister Maria Da Guia Costa's mortal remains rest in the cemetery chapel "Mater Divinae Gratiae" of the Vice Provincial House in São Paulo.



Sister Carmela Di Mauro, MPF

✽ **Ansonia, Connecticut** **July 28, 1932**
✠ **Morristown, NJ** **May 12, 2025**

Sister Carmela Di Mauro, MPF died peacefully at the age of 92 on the Feast of Saint Lucy Filippini, May 12, 2025, at Saint Joseph Hall, Health Care Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born to Joseph and Antoinette (Monaco) Di Mauro in Ansonia, Connecticut, Sister Carmela grew up in a loving and faith-filled family. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on December 3, 1950, received the religious habit on September 2, 1951, and made her Oblation on August 22, 1954. Sister Carmela earned a BS degree in Elementary Education from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey, an MS and 6th year certification in Psychology from Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut, and her Ph.D. from Heed University in Hollywood, Florida, in the field of Counseling Psychology.

Throughout her religious life, Sister Carmela taught in elementary, junior and high schools in New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. She also ministered as Religious Education Coordinator and Pastoral Minister in Catholic parishes. Gifted with a keen intellect and a sensitive heart, Sister Carmela joyfully embodied the charism of Saint Lucy Filippini wherever she served. In 2023, due to her declining health, Sister Carmela transitioned to Saint Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Carmela was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Thursday, May 15, 2025.

In his homily, the Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, shared these sentiments: *“Deep faith in God removes all fear and fosters great trust. This is the faith that inspired Sister Carmela to give her life to God as a teenager. She trusted in his wise plan to use her for the advancement of the kingdom of God as a Maestra Pia Filippini. Sister Carmela not only greatly admired Saint Lucy, but sought to imitate her virtues each day. In her various ministries... Sister Carmela brought the healing balm of the Gospel into the lives of those she served. Well-educated and humble, prayerful and sensitive to the needs of those around her, Sister Carmela put her gifts generously at the service of others. Those who lived with her found Sister Carmela to be joyful and encouraging. At the center of her life was the Lord. Wherever she happened to be living and working, she kept her eyes on Jesus, as the Way and the Truth and the Life.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province recalled: *“A proud member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Group, Sister Carmela held a deep love for our Blessed Mother, which I am confident brought her safely to her final breath. Sister Carmela’s love for Saint Lucy, too, was a lifelong devotion. Through the many changes in her life, she always felt Saint Lucy’s presence guiding her to make renewed decisions. Being welcomed into eternal life on her feast day is a gift, especially when seen beyond our earthly perspective.... Visiting Sister Carmela at Visitation Convent in New Brunswick, New Jersey, was always pleasant. She shared stories about her ministry and the people she worked with daily at the office. With a certification in Psychology and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology, in her day-to-day ministry, she took great pride in her ability to support others, especially women in need. Always available and deeply compassionate, Sister Carmela found joy in being called upon and willingly shared her gifts. ... Sister Carmela embraced a simple lifestyle, yet her heart was abundantly generous. She shared happily and graciously with the Community and was always mindful of supporting our Community Missions. Giving from what she had, gave Sister Carmela joy. Today, as you lay Sister Carmela to rest, I pray with you that the God who makes all things new, receives Sister Carmela with great joy, graciousness, and welcome for a life lived totally for Him.*

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



Sister Domenica Troina, MPF

✿ Nutley, New Jersey

January 23, 1932

✚ Capital Health Medical Center, NJ

May 12, 2025

Sister Domenica Troina, MPF passed away peacefully on May 12, 2025, the Feast of Saint Lucy Filippini, at Capital Health Medical Center, Hopewell, New Jersey. She was 93 years of age.

The youngest of eight children, Sister Domenica was born on January 23, 1932, in Nutley, New Jersey, and was raised in a large and loving family. Sister Domenica entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on June 27, 1954, received the religious habit on August 28, 1955, and made her Oblation on August 24, 1958. She studied Elementary Education, earning a BS from Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In her 69 years of religious life, Sister Domenica ministered as a dedicated classroom teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal, and Religious Education Coordinator. She served in the (arch)dioceses of Brooklyn, Hartford, Metuchen, Newark, Paterson, Philadelphia, Scranton, and Trenton. Sister Domenica was also appointed convent superior. Her last ministerial assignment was assisting in the Religious Education Program at Saint Gregory the Great Parish in Hamilton, New Jersey. Prior to her passing, Sister Domenica generously offered her services in the convent at Villa Victoria in Ewing, New Jersey, where she resided.

Rev. Monsignor Thomas N. Gervasio, who serves as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia in the Diocese of Trenton and was taught by Sister Domenica in grammar school, offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, May 19, 2025, in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh with seven concelebrants.

In his homily, Monsignor Gervasio, offered these thoughts: *“Our faith assures us that death is not the last word. It is that faith that sustained Sister Domenica throughout her life, from the day of her Baptism 93 years ago, that faith that found fertile soil within her loving family. It is that faith that inspired her to follow the Lord more closely in imitation of Saint Lucy Filippini, and it would become an Oblation, that was so generously lived for nearly 70 years. ... We should not allow our admiration for Sister Domenica to deprive her of our prayers. Pope Benedict XVI said those who go before us to the other shore never stop needing our love. ... Let us continue our love for her by our prayers, that any sin will be washed away, that all wounds be healed and that she may be purified of all that is not Christ, so that she may soon be greeted by Mother Foundress, on whose Feast Day the Lord called her. May she hear the joyous welcome of our Savior, the Savior she sought to serve so well. ‘Veni, Sponsa Christi. Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come, for, see the winter is past and gone, the flowers have appeared in our land. The time for singing has come.’”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy remarked, *“This is my first and enduring memory of Sister Domenica: As a young, inexperienced postulant, I was beginning my first assignment at Holy Rosary, Jersey City. Sister Domenica, then a second-year novice and nearly ten years older, was very sensitive to my need for protection, support, and understanding. She took me under her wing that entire year, always attentive to my needs and my inclusion in both a vigorous convent of twelve and a very large school. There is no doubt that my vocation was protected because she cared so kindly for me. This marked the beginning of my lifelong respect and esteem for Sister Domenica. It has never faded. ... ‘Love’ best summarizes Sister Domenica’s life. From her love of God flowed her love for the family she was born into, her deep love of this community that became her new family, her tireless devotion to our Mission, and her special love and care for the people she served, especially children. It was ‘love’ that made Sister Domenica the person she was and the person who gathers us today, allowing us to express our love one more time! May Sister Domenica reap the heavenly rewards of her beautiful life.”*

Sister Domenica Troina’s mortal remains were interred at Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.



Sister Lillian Ernest, MPF

✿ Jersey City, New Jersey

August 9, 1932

† Morristown, NJ

May 15, 2025

Sister Lillian Ernest, MPF, age 92, died peacefully on May 15, 2025, at Saint Joseph Hall, Health Care Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Sister Lillian was born to Edward and Stella (Zidiak) Ernest in Jersey City, New Jersey, on August 9, 1932. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on July 2, 1955. She received the religious habit on August 26, 1956, and made her Oblation on August 31, 1959. Sister Lillian earned her BS and MA in Special Education from Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey.

In her 68 years of religious life, Sister Lillian was engaged in various ministries. She began her apostolic years as a classroom teacher, but soon fulfilled her passion: Special Education. She loved God’s special children! For 32 years Sister Lillian generously served as teacher and Administrator in

the Mount Carmel Guild of Catholic Community Services in the Archdiocese of Newark. Sister Lillian also served as Parish Religious Education Coordinator in the Diocese of Trenton, appointed a local convent Superior, engaged in pastoral care to the infirm Sisters in Freytag Hall at Villa Walsh, appointed Formator, and elected Provincial Councilor. The last phase of her active ministry was to the sisters in Saint Joseph Hall. In this capacity Sister Lillian served as Superior with a heartfelt commitment to meet the Spiritual needs of the sisters. In 2022, when her health began to decline, Sister Lillian became a resident of Saint Joseph Hall.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Lillian was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Thursday, May 22, 2025.

In his homily, the Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, began his homily with the following story which he related to the life of Sister Lillian. *“One day, a roofer leaned his ladder against a house and climbed up to the roof to repair it. A small boy playing about the yard saw the ladder and began to climb it. Coming out to check on her son, his mother was shocked to find that he was more than halfway up the ladder. She panicked, but the roofer didn’t. He saw the child and knew the danger. He calmly said to the young boy, ‘Son, look up here, look up to me and keep climbing.’ Rung by rung, he kept gently saying, ‘Keep looking up at me, and keep climbing.’ At last, the child was safe in his arms. From her earliest years, all her life, Sister Lillian kept looking up to the Lord as he called her to come closer and closer to himself. As a young girl in Jersey City, she heard him call her to be involved in the life of her parish. A few years later, she responded unhesitatingly when he called her to come into a deeper relationship with him as a religious.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy recalled: *“Sister Lillian’s gentleness and goodness, combined with sound judgment and specific skills, were noted early in her religious life. This inspired our superiors at that time to send Sister Lillian to Saint Coletta’s in Wisconsin, where they serve and train individuals to assist children with special needs. This opportunity prepared Sister Lillian for a new ministry. On her return, under the direction of the Mount Carmel Guild in the Archdiocese of Newark, Sister Lillian was well-equipped to begin an extensive mission as both teacher and administrator, supporting children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. ... There were intervals during these years when Sister Lillian and our other sisters who accompanied her in this ministry were celebrated and highly praised for their exceptional contribution to this ministry of special education. ... I want to express again sentiments of gratitude to Sister Lillian for the many ways she contributed to the mission of our consecrated life and how she fulfilled the needs of the Community, always ready to say ‘yes’ and accept with dignity and dedication any responsibility or challenge asked of her. Thank you, again, Sister Lillian! Today, celebrating the beauty of her life, may it be a source of inspiration for each of us to live our consecrated lives more gently and with a greater and more sincere love.”*

Sister Lillian Ernest body was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.





Sister Jane Feltz, MPF

✿ Ardmore, Oklahoma July 9, 1944
‡ Morristown, NJ June 2, 2025

Sister Jane Feltz, MPF, died peacefully on June 2, 2025 at Saint Joseph Hall, Health Care Center, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. She was 80 years of age.

Born in Ardmore, Oklahoma on July 9, 1944, and raised in Maywood, New Jersey, Sister Jane was the eldest of four daughters born to Carmine and Miriam (Domnik) Feltz. Sister Jane attended the parish school of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Maywood, where she first became acquainted with the Religious Teachers Filippini. Sister Jane entered our religious community on September 8, 1962. She received the religious habit on August 25, 1963, and made her Perpetual Oblation on September 7, 1969. Sister Jane earned a BS degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in Science from Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey. She went on to obtain an MS in Educational Administration and Supervision from Fordham University, New York.

Throughout her 61 years of religious life, Sister Jane generously shared her many gifts, ministering in the (arch)dioceses of Newark, Paterson, and Trenton. She served as a classroom teacher, Principal, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum in the Diocese of Paterson, Vocation Director and Mission Director for the Province of Saint Lucy, Campus Minister at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey, and Early Childhood Instructor at Passaic County Community College in Paterson, New Jersey. Sister Jane offered her assistance at Saint Joseph by the Sea Retreat House in South Mantoloking, New Jersey, and coordinated Community and Spiritual Life activities at Saint Joseph Hall Infirmary. In addition, Sister Jane was appointed local convent Superior and served as a delegate to Provincial Chapters. In recent months, Sister Jane endured her illness with remarkable courage, sustained by her faith and the prayerful support of her religious Sisters, family, and friends.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Jane was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Saturday, June 7, 2025. The Reverend Father Thomas Ryan was the principal celebrant with three concelebrants.

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy recalled: “Those of us who walked alongside Sister Jane through so many years, and knew her well, enjoyed lofty conversations with her, and experienced her desire to pray, her way, of course, a prayer that comes naturally from the depths of one’s heart and experiences. Sister Jane was free-spirited, and prayer gave her this opportunity for freedom of expression. Those who knew Sister Jane also found in her conversation a search for something more and something better than what is. There was in her a questioning spirit, a restless energy that often asked, ‘Is there another way to do this?’ And it wasn’t questioning for its own sake – it was a searching from within, a love of her vocation and her apostolate, the community, and no doubt family, too! She believed that faith should be alive, not static, and that love and passion come from beyond what is easy or comfortable.... Sister Jane’s desire for ‘something more’ was wrapped in hope. She could truly be identified with this Holy Year theme, ‘A Pilgrim of Hope!’ ... And hope moved her to the very endTo all of you, Sisters, family, and friends: Can you hear Sister Jane’s message? ‘Walk on, not in sorrow, but with passion for life! Bring light and joy into a world that is searching, like I have searched. Move forward and be ‘Pilgrims of Hope!’”

The Reverend Thomas Ryan, concluded his homily with these words: *“Today, as we pray for Sister Jane, the most powerful prayer we have as Catholics, the celebration of the Mass, we ask Almighty God to receive this loving daughter of his, his spouse, to eternal life. It is also, too, in the celebration of this Mass, as we are nourished, indeed, nourished by the Word of God, nourished indeed by the gift*

of the Eucharist, to be our hope, to be our source, to be our strength, until that day, with God's love and mercy, we pray that we are joined together with our dear Sister Jane, with her brothers, and her many sisters, and all those who, indeed, who share and profess our faith in Jesus Christ. Saint Lucy Filippini, pray for us."

Sister Jane Feltz's body was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh

