



## Born to New Life

### Sister Yolanda Amoroso, MPF



Sister Yolanda Amoroso, MPF, 85, slipped away quietly Monday, January 28, 2019, at Saint Joseph Hall, two years after suffering from a severe stroke.

Born and raised in Orange, New Jersey, Sister Yolanda entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1948. She received her habit in 1949, and made her religious profession in 1952.

Sister Yolanda was awarded a BS degree in Elementary Education from the College of Saint Rose, Buffalo, New York, a MS in Reading from the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut, and a diploma from the Assumption Montessori School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This qualified her to be a Montessori teacher.

For many years Sister Yolanda taught in the primary grades in the Archdioceses of Newark, New Jersey; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York, New York; Hartford, Connecticut; and in the Dioceses of Cleveland, Ohio, and Trenton and Camden, New Jersey. Later, in her professional career, she enjoyed great satisfaction teaching Montessori in Winsted and Bristol, Connecticut.

In 2003, retired from active ministry, Sister Yolanda continued to serve in many capacities at Villa Walsh. Among them, she directed art activities and exercise classes for residents at Saint Joseph Hall, assisted as a driver and telephone operator. Sister Yolanda became a resident at Saint Joseph Hall in January 2017. Energetic, joy-filled, prayerful, willing to serve and a faithful daughter of Saint Lucy is the spirit Sister Yolanda leaves behind. This exemplary spirit was captured in the words of both Father Ron Sordillo, celebrant and homilist and in Sister Alice Ivanyo's tribute.

Throughout his homily, Father Ron re-enforced that Sister Yolanda bore her infirmity in a very dignified way. She taught us to understand that her suffering was in union with God and offered her suffering for the salvation of the world. She trusted in God and knew God would see her through. Father Ron stated that Sister Yolanda's life was an example of God's revelation. *"God revealed himself to her and told her what His will was for her. In life, Sister Yolanda witnessed, announced, discovered and proclaimed God all the days of her life. Sister Yolanda spoke Christ Jesus to us. Now today, Sister Yolanda is forever in and with Christ. 'Well done, my daughter, for revealing me for the world's salvation.'"*

In Sister Alice's insightful eulogy, she built on this scriptural quote *"Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."* Sister Alice explained, *"Herein lies the DNA of Sister Yolanda. In this passage we find the key to her magnanimous personality. Unless you turn and become like little children you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."* Here are just a few of the many examples Sister Alice creatively portrayed Sister Yolanda child-like:

*Children like to play. Sister Yolanda surely had a playful nature and enjoyed a lively exchange with her students through her long career in education... Children are easily hurt, but get over it quickly. Sister Yolanda didn't hold grudges. She moved along and made each day a new beginning... Children enjoy a big crowd, especially a family gathering. Sister Yolanda always brightened up when it was time for John to pick her up for the family event... Children are free spirits, and freely give to anyone. They don't worry about time. Sister Yolanda would drop anything she was doing if I approached her to take a sister to a last minute doctor appointment or to the ER... Children like to meet new people. Throughout Sister Yolanda's many years of ministry she maintained that affable quality that puts people at ease... Children are spiritual by nature. Sister Yolanda believed in the Divine Mercy to her very core. She prayed the chaplet daily with her preschool children and taught them to chant it rhythmically... Children want to be the best, so being the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven really fits her. Sister Yolanda wanted to be the best disciple... Children are attached to their mothers. Of course, Sister Yolanda was loyal and devoted to her natural Mom and Dad, whose letters and photos she cherished and kept in a special album. But Sister Yolanda was very attached to her heavenly Mother, Our Lady of Revelation... Children have complete trust. When we think about the two years Sister Yolanda lived in the solitude of her own thoughts, we can only conclude that she trusted God's will for her. Sister Yolanda humbled herself, she turned and became like a child to her heavenly Father and Mother. And she is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. God bless her forever and grant her eternal peace."*