



Born to New Life

Sister Josephine Ferrecchia, MPF



Sister Josephine Ferrecchia, MPF, the eldest member of the Pontifical Institute of the Religious Teachers Filippini worldwide, died peacefully at the age of 100 on Saturday, January 9, 2021, at

Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born in Marlboro, Massachusetts, on Christmas Day in 1920, Sister Josephine entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1930. She received the habit in 1937 and made her religious profession in 1940.

In her early years of ministry Sister Josephine taught elementary school in Jersey City and Newark, New Jersey. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Georgian Court College, Lakewood, New Jersey. Having studied music composition at the New York College of Music, she pursued certifications in New Jersey for Sacred Music and Gregorian Chant. Attending the National Pastoral Musicians Conventions for many years, she traveled extensively and networked with professional musicians around the country and from whom she learned much about liturgical music.

Sister Josephine was an integral part of the *Schola Cantorum* of the Filippini Sisters. Under the direction of Sister Carolina Jonata, Sister Josephine accompanied and directed many and various liturgical works, including the yearly Demonstration Masses for the Archdiocese of Newark, requested by the late Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh. She instructed Sisters in formation for generations, instilling in them the long standing traditions of the Filippini repertoire. Innumerable piano students benefitted from her zeal for music. For over half a century, Sister Josephine prepared, practiced, and directed every special Province occasion, feast day, and holiday with perfection. She continued to conduct choral singing and to prepare weekly liturgies at the Motherhouse through her many decades of service, up to and including the last year of her long and fruitful life.

As an esteemed member of the community, Sister Josephine was entrusted with the responsibility of the Province Music Library. She took this task seriously, and conscientiously maintained an impeccable inventory of the collections, accessing requested selections easily and promptly.

Sister Josephine was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, the birthday of the Foundress, Saint Lucy Filippini. Father Charles Kelly presided at the Rite of Committal Prayer Service, assisted by Msgr. Robert Coleman. Both priests, as well as Sister Patricia Pompa, Provincial Superior, spoke of Sister Josephine's vibrant presence, guilelessness, and candor, as well as her remarkable perseverance in religious life. Sister Josephine will long be remembered for her zest for life, her love of music, her sense of humor, her devotion to community and personal prayer, her dedication to Our Blessed Mother, her affability and hospitality, and remarkable independence.

