



## Born to New Life

### Sister Viola Alu, MPF



Just shy of her hundredth birthday, Sister Viola Alu, MPF, died peacefully at the age of 99 on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, in St. Joseph Hall Infirmary, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. A private burial service was held at Ave Maria Cemetery, on Monday, January 25, 2021. Father Ronald Sordillo presided at the Rite of Committal, recalling anecdotes of congenial and affable exchanges with Sister Viola in St. Joseph Hall these past few years. Sister Patricia Pompa, Provincial Superior, spoke of the kind and gentle spirit that unfolded in Sister Viola throughout her life with the continued offering of herself to God.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Sister Viola entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1946. She received the habit in 1947, and made her religious profession in 1950. After receiving her Associates Degree from Villa Walsh College, Sister Viola continued her studies at the College of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station, New Jersey, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. Her life's mission, as she put it, was *"to grow in the love of God and to teach His little ones."* That is exactly what she accomplished throughout her long and fruitful religious life.

Sister Viola was missioned in several elementary schools throughout her years of ministry. She launched her educative career in Holy Rosary School, Jersey City and St. Mary of Mt. Virgin in New Brunswick, New Jersey. From there she proclaimed the Word of God to children in St. Anthony, Exeter, Pennsylvania. Ready to serve wherever needed, Sister Viola's commitment brought her to St. Anthony in Watertown, New York and St. Mary in Cranston, Rhode Island. Untiringly dedicated to the Christian Education of Youth, Sister Viola selflessly served in many schools in Connecticut, including St. Sebastian in Middletown, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Meriden, St. Anthony in Bristol, Sacred Heart in Stamford, and St. Peter in Torrington. Her last, but most notable educational endeavor, was the role she played as one of the founding Sisters to open Mary of Nazareth School in Darnestown, Maryland. Faithful to the original inspiration of the Foundress, Sister Viola held the sacred trust of children as her principal duty.

Sister Viola's stated intention, *"to grow in the love of God,"* became a reality throughout her lengthy and productive life. A profound life of prayer nurtured in her the spirit of docility and gentleness that characterized her life and her work. Before transitioning to St. Joseph Hall Infirmary, Sister Viola resided at Villa Ferretti in Winsted, Connecticut, where she revealed her faithful witness to the people she encountered. With her genuine joviality, Sister Viola enjoyed her last years in retirement at St. Joseph Hall Infirmary. She readily spent her recreation by playing cards and table games with Sisters whose friendship she had sustained throughout her many and happy years of religious life.