



## Born to New Life

### Sister Mary Pezzino, MPF



Sister Mary Pezzino, MPF, 94, died peacefully and quietly on Friday, July 26, 2019, at Saint Joseph Hall, Home Healthcare Center. Prior to this, Sister Mary had a number of close calls which afforded opportunities for the sisters to stand closely about her in prayer and loving concern.

Father Nick Figurelli, celebrant for Sister Mary's Mass of Christian Burial, was honored that Sister Mary requested he be the celebrant. He spoke warmly of the many times he visited with her and all they shared when he served in Saint Joseph Hall.

Sister Mary was born and raised in Belleville, New Jersey. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1940, received her habit in 1941, and made her religious profession in 1944. Sister Mary was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey. She taught in the middle school in the Archdioceses of Newark, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Hartford, Connecticut and in the Dioceses of Trenton, Metuchen, Camden, New Jersey and Cleveland, Ohio.

Sister Mary was Principal and Superior at Saint Jerome School in West Long Branch, from 1962-68 and at Saint James School in Trenton from 1972-78. Sister Mary retired in 2002 at Saint James Convent in Trenton. In 2005, she entered Saint Joseph Hall Infirmary and remained there until her passing.

Wherever Sister Mary was assigned or whatever she was asked to do, she accomplished her roles meticulously and responsibly. She took pride in her every endeavor and that is the reputation she continued to maintain.

Sister Mary's family held a great appreciation and fondness for their Aunt. Sister Mary spent some time home caring for her sick elderly mother. During those years the nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews were growing up. They were influenced by Sister Mary's goodness and discipline and have never stopped appreciating her presence in their lives.

In Sister Mary's last years of illness, she won the hearts of the nursing staff and all who cared for her and visited her. Sister Laura Longo, Superior at Saint Joseph Hall, confirmed this in her tender tribute to Sister Mary. Sister Laura shared that Sister Mary was a common sight at the nurse's station where she received closer supervision. She noted, "*How strange to pass this area without finding Sister Mary in her usual place. Sister Mary had a sweetness and sincerity about her that made you smile, and she was appreciative of every little kindness. Even though we will miss Sister Mary sitting by the Nurses' Station working on her Word Search puzzles, choosing the right color for her flower art, and quietly and simply completing her task, surely her memory will linger, and we will smile and keep her in prayer.*"

*We are reminded of these words from our Constitutions: 'Christ himself forms in a special manner those whom he has chosen and whoever follows the path he indicates will attain the fullness of his love.' Sister Mary was chosen. Sister Mary cooperated fully. The just will be glad and rejoice before God. They will celebrate with great joy. And our Sister Mary will be right there, leading the praise. Thank you Sister Mary!*

