



## Born to New Life

### Sister Helen Rado, MPF



Sister Helen Rado, MPF, 93 years of age, died January 30, 2019, at Saint Joseph Hall after a brief illness. She took pride in saying she came from New Brunswick where she was born and raised. In 1938, she entered the Religious Teachers Filippini and received her habit in 1942. She made her final religious profession in 1945. Sister Helen received both her BA degree and MA in English from Fordham University and was certified in Administration and Supervision of the Elementary School through Rutgers University.

Sister Helen had a flair for languages and was very articulate. A very faith-filled religious woman, she loved to sing in praise of the Lord and her great joy was to proclaim and teach the Scriptures. She retired to Villa Walsh in 2016. It was only in her last month that she became a resident of Saint Joseph Hall.

Father John Barbella, former pastor from Holy Rosary, Perth Amboy, recalled some of his special memories of Sister Helen confirming how she responsibly carried out her role during their years together at Holy Rosary. Then he explained that although the tendency is to look back, as Catholics we need to look ahead to the fulfillment of all the promises God made to us. Father focused on each reading of the Liturgy which Sister Helen chose for her Mass. In the first reading, God promises to wipe away our tears and replace these with eternal life in heaven. In the second reading he noted that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God. Sister Helen was convinced that God would never abandon her. The Gospel promises us that anyone who gives up family and possessions in this life will enjoy eternal life forever.

Sister Ascenza began her tribute by acknowledging the seven priests who honored Sister Helen by their presence and expressed sympathy in the name of the Province to the many members of Sister Helen's family who attended. These are just a few excerpts that followed:

*"Today the Province of Saint Lucy closes another chapter in its history. Sister Helen entered Villa Walsh in 1938. Her sister Johanna, although two years older, followed in her footsteps six years later. Two sisters so closely woven, how difficult to speak about one without referencing the other. The Rado sisters have been part of the Filippini Family for 81 years. The pages of their chapter are inundated with cherished memories of the good they each have accomplished through these years.*

*"...A running thread throughout Sister Helen's entire life was to give thanks, praise, and glory to God. She articulated this and modeled it. God gifted her with multiple gifts, and she used each of them for God's glory. Embodying the community's motto "Go teach the Word of God" she put her heart and soul in learning, preparing and teaching God's Word. Through many years, Sister Helen responsibly performed her role with energy and zeal, when a teacher, principal, director of religious education, pastoral minister. Sister Helen's greatest privilege was to serve as lector and proclaim the Scriptures...*

*"... Sister Helen loved her co-workers, the people, especially the children, whom she taught and formed. When her students received the various sacraments, she prided in her participation, the spiritual mother. 'They were part of the fabric of my life,' she often noted. The conclusion of her farewell talk to the parishioners at Holy Rosary ended with these words that accurately summarize her mission among God's people: 'I proclaim the Gospel to you with the voice of Christ, I serve you with the hands of Christ, and I love you the heart of Christ.'*

*"...A deep respect for her superiors and those in authority came naturally to Sister Helen. This surfaced no matter who held the Office and whether she agreed or disagreed with the decision. Possibly this repeated obedience was a rehearsal for accepting God's Will for her this past week. During her last days, in her lucid moments, Sister Helen shared these words more than once: 'I am asking the Holy Spirit to give me the strength to get through this. I want to do God's Will.' Such a quiet peace and sincerity accompanied this fiat 'I want to do God's Will.' It is with this same peace and sincerity, yet with sorrow, that we give her over to this acceptance. The Rado Sisters - we close their chapter, but we open a chamber in our hearts that will keep them alive until we all meet again.*

*"Sister Helen, you are home! Praising and glorifying God comes so naturally to you, and now you do this for all eternity! Praise, honor and glory to you, O God, now and forever for the beauty of your creation shown to us through the life of Sister Helen!"*