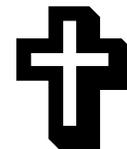




Born to New Life



Sister Josephine Cartanza, MPF

Sister Josephine Cartanza, MPF, 99, died unexpectedly the morning of Saturday, March 18, 2017, at Saint Joseph Hall.

Born and raised in Swedesboro, New Jersey, Sister Josephine entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on September 18, 1934, was invested on July 7, 1935, and made her final religious profession on July 3, 1938. Sister Josephine was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in history from the College of Saint Elizabeth, and received a Master of Arts Degree in Spanish from the Catholic University of Puerto Rico which included studies in the University of Salamanca, Spain and the University of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Sister Josephine taught in the elementary grades at Our Lady of Sorrows, and Holy Rosary, Jersey City and taught on the secondary level at Saint Joseph, Hammonton, New Jersey, 1947-71; Our Lady of Pompeii, Baltimore, Maryland, 1973-76; Villa Walsh Academy, Morristown, New Jersey 1979 - 93. For twenty-four summers, Sister Josephine taught History at Villa Walsh College. Through these years, many sisters have been the recipients of her excellent teachings.

Sister Josephine, a gifted and joy-filled educator, taught history for many years, and in her later years excelled in teaching Spanish. These subjects were her forte and the gift that shaped her students. Teaching was her passion, and this was complemented by her intense love, care and concern for her students. Consequently, this earned her the deep respect and affection of her pupils. *“Some teachers never stop teaching!”* This is the legacy she leaves behind.

From 1976 - 1979 Sister Josephine cared for her aged mother and then her dying brother from 1993 - 1995. When Sr. Josephine returned to Villa Walsh in 1995, she assisted Sister Clare Testa, her dear friend, in the Province Archives and assisted with household responsibilities, always reliable, happy to serve, and never idle. After an injury from a fall, she became a resident at Saint Joseph Hall in 2007.

At her Mass of Christian Burial, Father Ron Sordillo, celebrant, homilist, and a longtime friend, spoke personally and eloquently on Sister Josephine's behalf. With sadness, Father Ron shared:

“To me Sister Josephine truly expressed who she was through her actions and strong faith. She was a tremendous consecrated religious woman who always trusted God in her prayer and spirituality. She mirrored the fullness of life and molded others to do the same. In all, she encouraged and challenged others to know Jesus through her simple life (the farmer's daughter from Swedesboro) to know God, love God, serve God and be happy with Him in the life to come. Sister Josephine did know God! She loved God and served God well in her life as a Religious Teacher Filippini.”

Father Ron's description of Sister Josephine was complemented by Sister Ascenza's eulogy:

“What a very precious life we come to celebrate today: Sister Josephine, truly a woman of substance: intelligent, giving, joyful, generous, hard-working, sacrificing: this is the abbreviated list of her positive traits! However, when all are totaled, the final sum remains her holiness of life. This is Sister Josephine: the loyal American, the farm girl from Swedesboro, and a committed religious woman.”

This excerpt was found among Sister Josephine's writings. Sister Josephine's own words speak for her beautiful, inspiring life:

“From a child, I always knew there were two roads I could choose to take.... The narrow and hard road; or the broad, easy, pleasurable one. God must have heard my childhood prayer, because I took the narrow road, and followed Him more closely in the religious state. Robert Frost once said: And I have taken the road less traveled and that has made all the difference.” This narrow road of my childhood prayer, the consecrated life, has blessed me with joy in my work, love for the young people I've encountered and a serene peace with myself and the world about me. Teaching and loving have been a rewarding experience.”

Rest in peace, beloved Sister in Christ!