



Born to New Life

Sister Helen Del Carpine, MPF



The community was saddened by the passing of Sister Helen Del Carpine, who died peacefully on June 24, 2018, at Saint Joseph Hall. Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Anthony Sirianni, a former student of hers and Pastor of Saint Helena, Edison, New Jersey. Father remembered Sister as one who witnessed her Baptismal Promises and Oblation; she taught and lived the beatitudes with authority and conviction; love of God and the people she served earned her a place at the banquet of the Lord.

A native of New York City, Sister Helen often bragged of her family heritage. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on July 7, 1940. She received her religious habit on June 15, 1941, and made her final religious profession on August 27, 1944. Sister Helen was awarded a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from Georgian Court University.

For more than forty-five years, Sister Helen taught in the elementary grades, in the Archdioceses of Newark, New Jersey; New York, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and in the Dioceses of Scranton, Pennsylvania; Brooklyn, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; Baltimore, Maryland; Trenton, New Jersey; Camden, New Jersey and Ogdensburg, New York. Sister Helen also taught religion classes after school wherever she was missioned. She possessed a very generous and giving spirit and offered service wherever help was needed. Because she was gifted with culinary skills and great strength, she volunteered and utilized these talents at Villa Walsh through many hot summers. Others, knowing these assets, along with her spirit of generosity and sense of humor, they often called upon her to assist.

Sister Helen spent her last years in active retirement at Holy Family Convent, Nutley. After spending one year, 2010, at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Maywood, she entered Saint Joseph Hall at Villa Walsh in 2011. During these seven years, her acceptance of illness was admired by those who cared for her. Sister Helen was the last of twelve siblings, among them, Sister Louise.

Sister Lucy Battistuz offered an inspiring eulogy. She explained why Sister Helen can best be defined by her title **Religious Teacher Filippini**. These are only some of the touching remembrances Sister Lucy so beautifully shared:

“Religious: *The essence of her life was her relationship with Jesus and Mary. Before community prayers Sister Helen would be seen in the Chapel fingering her rosary while saying the 15 decades... Her spirit of generosity flowed from her spirit of prayer. She gave of herself selflessly...*

“Teacher: *Stephen King wrote ‘We never know which lives we influence, or when or why.’ I think this can be said of all teachers but especially Sister Helen. She, like the book of Proverbs says, ‘Start children off the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it.’ ... Sister Helen had the gift of storytelling coupled with great wit and humor. We looked forward to the tales of her little ones’ foibles which provided much laughter at the dinner table...*

“Filippini: *Sister Helen was proud to be a Filippini sister for seventy-five years. She began the Filippini journey at Saint Ann School in Harlem, New York, where our Sisters taught... “Sister Columbina Musi was instrumental in encouraging the young Helen to become a Filippini at fourteen... “In fact, her whole family not only gave two sisters, Louise and Helen, to the community, but adopted all the sisters as well. Throughout the years they gave countless hours and monetary gifts especially for the Sisters’ Sale... “The sisters vividly remember Sister Helen giving up many summers to help in the kitchen after a full year of teaching... We always knew when Sisters Helen and Zita were on duty because peals of laughter echoed... Sister Helen was the original, ‘rent a nun’ at Christmastime. Her pangiallo was sought after by the convents, so off she went during the month of December to different convents to make this wonderful chocolate and nut delight...*

“When Sisters Louise and Helen entered Saint Joseph Hall, they each accepted this time of their lives with peace and each were happy to be with the other at this time, sisters and best friends. During her years at Saint Joseph Hall the staff loved and respected Sister Helen because she was grateful for everything that was done for her and never complained...”

“Yes, Sister Helen truly lived the words ‘Religious Teacher Filippini...’ ”

Sister Lucy concluded, *“Sister Helen, you are now well and happy, resting in the heart of the Father with your religious and natural families. Go in peace.”*