



Born to New Life

Sister Lucy Vescera, MPF



Sister Lucy Vescera, MPF, 90, entered eternal life on Thursday, September 14, 2017, at Saint Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. Her passing came unexpectedly on the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross. How appropriate that our Lord called her home on this day since she spent so many years at the Holy Land where the cross lights the night sky!

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1927, Sister Lucy entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1945. She received her religious habit in 1946 and made her religious profession in 1949. Sister Lucy received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Central Connecticut State College in Elementary Education.

Sister Lucy's mission centered on pastoral ministry, and she was a staunch teacher of religious education. Her places of mission included Saint Joseph, Newark, New Jersey; Saint Mary, Cranston, Rhode Island; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Bristol, Rhode Island; Saint Thomas, Southington, Connecticut; Holy Land, Waterbury, Connecticut; and Our Lady of Mercy, East Greenwich, Rhode Island, her last place of active ministry.

Through the years, Sister Lucy was recognized for her dedicated, faithful service. She was credited for her volunteer service at convalescent homes, hospitals, and home bound visits, especially to the people of Waterbury, Connecticut, where she was honored for her years of community service; she was acknowledged and praised for her teaching of religious education no matter where she was assigned. Sister Lucy's strong faith and authentic religious witness gave credence to what she taught and how she lived.

Father Ronald Sordillo, celebrant at her Mass of Christian Burial, acknowledged that Sister Lucy was a woman of deep prayer who focused on the power of the cross. *"Sister Lucy's faith enabled her to know that the Lord of everything was placed on the wood and everything we need is found there. It was at the cross that Jesus redeemed everything. In Him we are redeemed, and Sister Lucy knew this very well."*

"The Lord was not in the mighty wind, the earthquake or the fire, but in a tiny whispering breeze." That was Sister Lucy, a tiny breeze who loved Christ crucified and his mother, Mary. These words were the introductory lines to Sister Ella Mae Mc Donald's moving and dynamic tribute to Sister Lucy. Sister Ella Mae highlighted notable attributes that characterized Sister Lucy's person and ministry. These are just samplings of all that Sister Ella Mae shared:

Sister Lucy, her name meaning light, was a beacon guiding all to Jesus and Mary. She gave her entire life to helping the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, all corporal and spiritual works of mercy. At the Holy Land, she gave tours, prayed the rosary and stations of the cross with those who visited there. She was learned in the scriptures and in the history of the Holy Land. When the tour ended near the cross, she would tell the story how the cross lit the way for travelers and truck drivers. Her glory was in the cross of Christ. Sister Lucy and her companion Sister Josephine reached out to the poor, sat and spoke to them and asked how they could service them. They gave needy people dignity and respect as Jesus would do.

Sister Lucy visited nursing homes and nurtured the Junior Sodality of Mary. Nothing stopped her from praying the rosary and spreading devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. She was very faithful to Eucharistic Adoration. She was a living blessing to all, truly a woman of deep faith, a beacon of hope, and a wellspring of love, love of God, Mary, her family, her religious community and our country.

Sister Ella Mae concluded with a prayer using the letters that spell "Sr. Lucy Vescera."

Savior and Redeemer, I give you my Love each day and ask you to **U**se me for the **C**hallenges of my time, saying **Y**es to be generous and hospitable to all I meet. **V**isiting and receiving you in **E**ucharist each day has **S**ustained me and given me the **C**ourage to **E**cho St. Lucy's words, "Love God, Love God. **R**everencing and respecting your holy name forever. **A**men.