



## Born to New Life

### Sister Rose Machi, MPF



Sister Rose Machi, 99, entered eternal life on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, in Saint Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Although born in Bayonne, New Jersey, Sister Rose was raised and schooled in the New Brunswick, New Jersey area. Sister Rose entered religious life with the Sisters of Mercy in 1942, and made her final vows as a Sister of Mercy, North Plainfield, New Jersey, in 1948. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Georgian Court, Lakewood, New Jersey, and was certified in Library Science from Trenton State College. In 1964 Sister Rose transferred to the Religious Teachers Filippini and initially ministered as a missionary in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

During her years as a teacher Sister Rose taught the primary grades. She was missioned in the Dioceses of Trenton, Camden, Metuchen, Scranton, Providence, Albany, and Ohio and in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

When Sister Rose retired, she assisted as a telephone operator at Villa Walsh, Motherhouse of the Filippini Sisters, and gave service wherever help was needed until she entered Freytag Hall in 1999, Healthcare Center for the sisters at that time.

Father Ron Sordillo, celebrant at her Mass of Christian Burial, ministered to Sister Rose at Saint Joseph Hall and comforted her during the final years when Sister Rose lay bedridden. In his homily, Father shared that for Sister Rose, Jesus was not a remote figure remembered from a long, past history. Rather, Jesus was always a living person, a person with whom she could have an intimate relationship. This inspired her to follow Him without compromise. Her purpose in life was to know, love and serve God.

Before the assembly dispersed, Sister Josephine Palmeri eulogized Sister Rose with deep affection. Through the years when Sister Rose was limited to Saint Joseph Hall, Sister Josephine, a frequent visitor, listened to and enjoyed the tidbits that Sister Rose shared. Being a people person and a conversationalist, she told family stories, especially stories of her father Cirino, who owned a butcher and grocery store for forty-eight years. A confirmation of her affection for him was evidenced in the name she chose when a Mercy Sister, Sister Mary Cirino.

Because Sister Rose always felt called to be a missionary, and because the Filippini Sisters were opening our first mission in Brazil, Sister Rose asked permission to be transferred to this community. In 1964 she began her life as a Filippini Sister serving in Brazil. On her return to the States, she taught primary grades and also served as a librarian before retiring to Villa Walsh.

Sister Josephine elaborated on the unique gifts Sister Rose exhibited, particularly her artistic and intellectual positions. Sister Rose had a great devotion to Saint Theresa the Little Flower, and it was on her feast that the community gathered to pray and bid our last farewell.

Sister Josephine affectionately concluded her tribute with these sentiments:

*“The last several years of Sister Rose’s life were those of silent suffering, bedridden, unable to do things she loved. Her silent thoughts and words were known to God alone. For all we know, this hidden life, this time of suffering might have been her greatest contribution to our world.”*