



Born to New Life

Sister Josephine Ciccarello, MPF



The Province of Saint Lucy, filled with contrasting emotions of joy and sadness, celebrated the full and beautiful life of Sister Josephine Ciccarello, 89, who died Sunday, June 18, 2017, at Saint Joseph Hall.

Sister Josephine was born and raised in Middletown, Connecticut, and entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on March 12, 1945. She received the religious habit on June 30, 1946, and made her final religious profession on September 11, 1949. Sister Josephine Ciccarello was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from the College of Saint Elizabeth. Sister Josephine began her ministry serving in mission parishes and then spent many years teaching in the primary grades. Sister served in the Archdioceses of Newark, New Jersey; and Hartford, Connecticut; Dioceses of Trenton, Paterson, and Metuchen New Jersey; Bridgeport, Connecticut; and Providence, Rhode Island. Sister Josephine stands out as a fine primary grade teacher, gentle, vibrant and conscientious.

Retiring to Villa Walsh in 2008, Sister Josephine served as telephone operator and sacristan of Holy Family Chapel at the Villa. She became a resident of Saint Joseph Hall in 2016. Sister Josephine will be remembered as a joyful witness of the Filippini Sisters. Coming from a family of singers, she, too, received the gift of voice and loved to sing and share her talent at the piano.

This image of Sister Josephine was confirmed by Rev. Alfred Lampron, celebrant at her Mass of Christian Burial. In his affectionate tribute, he recalled his recollection of Sister Josephine at the organ preparing children to sing at Liturgy. He explained that accompanying her musical talent, she drew children to the Lord through a joyful spirit that invited a positive response. *“Love, understanding, kindness, gentleness are the qualities that bring others to Christ; we set the example. We are called to reveal Jesus. May Sister Josephine’s passing help us to renew our call,* Father advised the assembly.

Sister Marie Antonelli, was privileged to eulogize Sister Josephine, a friend from her childhood.

“...As I think back to my childhood days at Sacred Heart in Stamford. I am grateful to Sister Josephine for the direct influence she had on my decision to enter religious life. Her love for God was so evident in everything she did...”

“We had no Catholic school – but everyone joined the choir because Sister Josephine was our directress. I can remember our choir days as children – we loved going, even though she made us work. With one hand on the piano key and the other hand in the air, she would direct...”

“As time moved on three girls entered religious life from Stamford, Sister Jo Anne Pompa, Sister Patricia Pompa and myself. She was so proud of us and her support of us never waned...”

“For over seventy years Sister Josephine has influenced many lives through her teaching and parish ministry. She was a unique individual who was able to touch the hearts of all whom she came in contact. Her gentleness, concern, hospitality and warmth were seen through all of her actions. No one was excluded...”

“Sister Josephine was extremely conscientious in all that she did. She loved taking care of the altar, and she did it with respect and love for God. Although her body became weak, her desire to go on was so strong. She was an edification to anyone that would watch her as she moved along losing her strength but not stopping...”

“Sister Josephine had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother, and her day didn’t end unless she completed three rosaries. She fingered each bead with her arthritic fingers, and treasured the rosary to her dying day...”

Sister Marie lovingly concluded, *“And so my friend, after spending time with you, you so often expressed when departing with a smile, ‘Ci vediam’ We will meet again. Rest in Peace!”*