



Born to New Life

Sister Margaret Pierro, MPF



Sister Margaret Pierro, 90, died peacefully on Thursday April 7, 2016, at Morristown Medical Center, Morristown, NJ.

Sister Margaret was born and raised in Bristol, CT. She attended Tufts University for two years and then entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on April 27, 1945. She received the religious habit on June 30, 1946, and made her final religious profession on September 11, 1949. She completed her education at Seton Hall University where she was awarded a BA degree in Physical Science.

During her initial years as a Filippini Sister, Sister Margaret assisted in the formation program. Her responsibility was to care for the postulants. To this day, the sisters who were initially schooled by her in community still hold her in highest respect. Most of her active ministry, however, has been in teaching and assisting the infirm. Sister Margaret taught in the Archdioceses of Newark, New Jersey; and in the Dioceses of Trenton, Camden, Paterson, New Jersey; and Baltimore, Maryland. Since her background and expertise were in the field of science, she shared this gift with both junior high and high school students. Sister Margaret was principal at Saint Anthony School, Watertown, New York, and principal of the middle school at Villa Victoria Academy.

From 1986 to 2015, Sister Margaret ministered at the Motherhouse at Villa Walsh where she assisted in a variety of roles (infirmary coordinator, director of recreational activities, sacristan) in the sisters' infirmary (Freitag Hall / Saint Joseph Hall). This was interrupted one year, 1996-1997, when at the request of the superior general, Sister Margaret was missioned in Medstead – Alton, England.

Sister Margaret was very kind and caring and loved by all who knew her. Soft-spoken, gentle, reserved; her placid presence made her very easy to approach. It took so little for her to respond with a soft laugh.

No matter what role Sister Margaret was assigned, she worked heart and soul, quietly but responsibly. Love of God was reflected in her every prayer and action. In this last year, Sister Margaret became a patient at Saint Joseph Hall, the place where she faithfully served the infirm sisters for so many years.

Sister Lillian Harrington, a longtime friend, eulogized Sister Margaret. In her tribute Sister Lillian confirmed:

“Sister Margaret Pierro was a dedicated religious who admired Saint Lucy Filippini and emulated her in her devotion to God and love for the Blessed Mother. She also held a very strong devotion to Saint Theresa of the Little Flower and as a result was very devoted to Carmel.

“Sister Margaret was an outstanding teacher, dedicated to her students who loved her dearly. ... They enjoyed helping her in her classroom and just being in her presence. In turn, Sister Margaret would visit their homes and got to know their families...”

Sister Lillian also described Sister Margaret as a mad scientist, avid fisherman, farmer, and ecologist. She even offered humorous examples to illustrate these roles.

“After Sister Margaret left Villa Victoria, she continued to care for others, serving in whatever mission the community needed. For many years, she was a loving and comforting presence to our Sisters in the infirmary...”

“We are grateful to Sister Margaret for sharing her life of loving service as a Filippini Sister. We are proud of all her accomplishments. Whatever she achieved, the children she taught, the hearts she touched, the good deeds she performed, were all for the greater honor and glory of God. God was her sole motive and love. That is why we are certain that today she experiences eternal life. May she rest in peace. Amen.”

