



Born to New Life

Sister Armanda Trotta, MPF



Sister Armanda Trotta, 96, entered eternal life on Sunday, February 7, 2016. She died at Morristown Medical Center at the Hospice Unit. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Sister Armanda entered the Religious Teachers Filippini on June 16, 1940. She received her religious habit on June 15, 1941, and made her final profession on August 27, 1944.

Sister Armanda was awarded a BS degree in Elementary Education from the College of St. Elizabeth. She was a dedicated elementary school teacher. Her teaching experience was in the Archdioceses of New York, New York; Newark, New Jersey; Hartford, Connecticut, and in the Dioceses of Albany, New York; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Camden New Jersey. Her last forty-four years were spent at Saint Joseph Elementary School, Hammonton, New Jersey, where she taught 3rd grade for 31 years, and was librarian for 13 years. This is where she is especially remembered. Sister Armanda retired and became a resident of Saint Joseph Hall in 2011.

At her Mass of Christian Burial, celebrant Father Thomas Donio, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, (former Saint Joseph Parish) Hammonton, New Jersey, praised and expressed gratitude to Sister Armanda for her religious witness in the school and parish. Father noted Sister was loved and respected. "She lived the motto 'Do good and then disappear,'" Father recounted.

Sister Barbara Ranere, regional superior of Mater Christi Region, Medstead, England, prepared a warm eulogy to honor Sister Armanda, a long time friend. Sister Betty Jean Takacs delivered the tribute in Sister Barbara's absence. The following excerpts from the eulogy unmistakably portray Sister Armanda.

"...Sister Armanda had her unique personality, independent and private, and yet one knew what she was all about. As I reflect back, her qualities for seventy-five years in religious life all seem to have blended together in good times and in bad. She was a person of determination. Her life-style was one of orderliness and routine... Her obvious deep relationship with the Lord was her guiding light.

"...Her heart was always one of gratitude and thoughtfulness. I received a written thank you note for anything that I gave her, big or small. She extended her gratitude, thoughtfulness, and generosity to others as well..." In her own thoughtful way, she would look after me and support me in my school endeavors.

Being a person of self-discipline, she never felt sorry for herself when she was sick. During Sister Armanda's Golden Jubilee year, she experienced a bout of cancer that required treatments. I offered to hire a teacher for that period of time but she would not hear of it. She wanted to finish her 50th year in the classroom.

Community meant everything to her and she was a definite team player. Her respect for authority, her duties and daily chores, and what she did for all of us were part of who she was.

"...I will remember Sister Armanda the most for her good example of faithfulness to prayer. Her devotion to the Blessed Sacrament impressed me. She spent a certain time every day in the chapel to pray before the Blessed Sacrament..."

Sister Barbara concluded her tribute with these tender sentiments of appreciation:

"Sister Armanda, it is now my turn to express my gratitude to you publicly. Thank you, Sister Armanda, for all the invaluable gifts that you have given me through your good example, your love, and your faith-filled life. Thank you for being one of my cherished friends. You are a treasure! Farewell my dear friend. May you rest in peace forever."