



Born to New Life Sister Anna Iantorno, MPF



“Sister Anna was a wonderful proclamation of the glory of God. Her faith and trust in the knowledge of God’s Word spilled over into the spheres of ministry from New Jersey to New York, Ohio to Colorado, and lastly at Saint Joseph Hall. She was a faithful daughter of Saint Lucy Filippini.” These are the sentiments that were expressed by Rev. Ron Sordillo, chaplain at Saint Joseph Hall at Sister Anna’s Mass of Christian Burial. Father Ron visited Sister Anna frequently and ministered to her in her final journey.

Sister Anna Iantorno’s journey ended the morning of Tuesday, September 18, 2018, at Saint Joseph Hall where she was a resident since 2012. Sister Anna was ninety-two years old. She was born and raised in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, and entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1942, received her habit in 1943, and made her religious profession in 1946. Sister Anna was awarded a Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education from Saint John University, Cleveland, and a Masters Degree at Canisius College, Buffalo, New York.

Sister Anna served in elementary education as a teacher and later as principal. She readily accepted assignments, even those in distant areas. No matter where Sister Anna served she was loved, respected, and will be remembered for her kindness, gentleness and ever smiling expression.

Her ministries were in the Archdiocese of Newark, and Diocese of Trenton and Metuchen, New Jersey and Dioceses of Cleveland, Ohio; Pueblo, Colorado ; and Albany, New York. Sister Anna served as principal and superior at Saint Ann Raritan, New Jersey, and at Saint Mary of Mt. Virgin, New Brunswick, New Jersey, and at Saint Anthony, Akron, Ohio.

Sister Anna was honored by the Diocese of Metuchen May 13, 1992, at the *Celebration of Excellence in Education*, and on May 7, 2002, received the Catholic Educators Award from the Diocese of Metuchen. In May of this year, the community celebrated Sister Anna’s seventy-five years of Investiture.

Sister Catherine Iacouzzi , who lived with Sister Anna at Saint Cecilia, Iselin, New Jersey, offered the eulogy. She confirmed Sister Anna’s kindness, gentleness, generosity and her ability to listen. *“People sought her advice and never came away disappointed or feeling neglected... Never did she show disinterest or a lack of sympathy.”*

Portraying Sister Anna, the teacher, Sister Catherine stressed that her students were her first priority. *“Her commitment to them was characterized by a gentle patience and total dedication. Nothing was too much if it pertained to the students. She was firm, but gentle, and students accepted corrections from her because they knew she wanted them to be the best they could be.”*

Sister Anna is mourned by all those who loved and admired her for her goodness, her warm smile and her dedicated service.

Funeral arrangements were attended by Bongiovi Funeral Home. Funeral director and long time friend, Ann Louise Bongiovi, deemed it an honor to care for Sister Anna. She stated at the cemetery *“I know funeral directors are not expected to cry, but Sister Anna was there when I needed her at a very difficult time in my life. I will never forget her.”* These final words validated all the spoken sentiments that were echoed repeatedly following Sister Anna’s passing.

May Sister Anna find her ultimate joy resting in the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father. There is no greater reward.