



Born to New Life

Sister Mary Rotante, MPF



Sister Mary Rotante, MPF, died peacefully at the age of 98 on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at St. Joseph Hall Infirmery, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born to Salvatore and Giovannina (Guarnuccio) Rotante on July 7, 1924, in Stamford Connecticut, Sister Mary grew up in a loving and faith-filled family. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1941, received the habit in 1942, and made her religious profession in 1945. Sister Mary earned a BA degree in History from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in Baltimore, Maryland, and a M.Ed. from University of Hartford, in Hartford, Connecticut.

In her 80 years of religious life, Sister Mary served as a classroom teacher, principal, administrative and library assistants, and in pastoral ministry. Sister Mary was also appointed local Superior of several convents including Villa Walsh where she gave many years of generous service. Sister Mary served in the (arch)dioceses of Baltimore, Camden, Hartford, Metuchen, Newark, Ogdensburg, Paterson, Philadelphia, Providence, Scranton, and Trenton. In 2016, due to declining health, Sister Mary retired to St. Joseph Hall.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Mary was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Thursday, June 15, 2023. Her body was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

In his homily, the Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, shared: *“Sister Mary served the Lord in so many ministries, ... blessing 11 different dioceses by her ministry. What a great legacy to leave! She accepted every new assignment, knowing that Jesus was leading her where He knew she could do the most good. And in all her work, she took Jesus’ words in the Gospel literally. She went to the Lord who said, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you.” (Mt 11:28) Because of her faith in Jesus, Risen from the dead, she found the strength and comfort to do all that she did. Now, at the age of 98, Sister Mary, a faithful, dedicated follower of Jesus, has passed through the portal of death, not in fear, but in the sure knowledge that Jesus, her Master, her Lord whom she always longed to be with, was there on the other side, waiting to welcome her home. May the Lord receive this faithful religious into the fullness of life forever.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province recalled: *“Sister Mary had a great love and curiosity for History, especially that of our country... At the same time, Sister Mary had a great interest in reading Catholic and Community related materials: current writings of the Pope, and commentaries on the Scripture readings of the day...Throughout her life, Sister Mary loved and appreciated all God’s gifts, enjoying nature, and the many other simple joys that both nature and friends provide...Superseding all these blessings, where did Sister Mary receive her inner strength and acceptance? It was her fidelity to her prayer life, her love of the Eucharist, her devotion to our Blessed Mother, the daily Rosary, and her reading and interest in the spiritual life. How timely that Sister Mary died while the Church was preparing to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi! Throughout her long life, Sister Mary was daily invited to the table of the Lord and nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ. As she is laid to rest, may the nourishment she received daily strengthen her in today’s journey to the Father, to the Father who welcomes her to the Heavenly banquet. Sister Mary, we thank God for the gift you have been to us and for the gifts you leave us. Rest in peace.”*