



## Born to New Life Sister Margaret Mangieri, MPF



*“As the deer that yearns for running streams...”* so was Sister Margaret’s desire for her God. *Psalm 42:1*  
Sister Margaret Mangieri died peacefully on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, after a prolonged illness at Chatham Hills Rehabilitation Center, Chatham, New Jersey. At age ninety, Sister was ready and waiting for God to bring her home.

Sister Margaret was born and raised in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1939, received her habit in 1943, and made her religious profession in 1946. Sister Margaret was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey.

Sister Margaret served as an elementary school teacher in the Dioceses of Scranton, Pennsylvania; Cleveland, Ohio; Brooklyn, New York; Paterson, Metuchen, Trenton, Camden, New Jersey; and in the Archdioceses of Newark, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Hartford, Connecticut. Sister Margaret retired at Villa Walsh in 1998. During retirement, she served as telephone operator and assisted in transporting sisters to doctor appointments. She became a resident at Saint Joseph Hall in 2015.

Sister Margaret had a love for teaching. She was demanding, but dynamic in her approach. Even in her final days, she expressed gratitude to God for the privilege to teach. Sister Margaret often boasted that her mission in Assumption Parish, Bayonne, New Jersey, (1946 to 1954) was an extra fruitful mission. It was there that she fostered vocations to the priesthood and religious life and these people continue to attribute their vocation to her.

At her Mass of Christian Burial, Father Nick Figurelli, eighth grade student of Sister Margaret, Saint Rocco, Newark, began his homily by setting the stage of what had occurred in American society by 1969. This also impacted the city of Newark. *“Sister Margaret had just arrived from her assignment in Saint Ann School in East Harlem. We had all weathered some trying experiences that changed us as students and as Americans in general... One of the many lessons that Sister Margaret instilled in us was the awareness that the climate in the country was changing drastically due to political and tragic events. We needed our Catholic Faith to comprehend and cope with all that had and was presently surrounding us...”*

*“Sister Margaret was a true lady and religious who lived the spirit of Saint Lucy. She had the same sense of addressing the needs of people just as Saint Lucy did in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in Italy...”*

With the same deep affection and warmth, Sister Jean Gaeta eulogized Sister Margaret.

Sister Jean was present among the excited students who watched the car pull into the driveway of Assumption Convent, Bayonne, Sister Margaret’s first teaching assignment. She recalled her first glimpse of the new sister, Sister Margaret Manger, who was now able to do what she always wanted to do, “TEACH.” *“Sister Margaret’s teaching was not confined to the classroom. She was also the choir teacher for grade school students, and her musical experience extended beyond the students; she also instructed an adult choir. There wasn’t a funeral celebrated in the parish that you didn’t see Sister Margaret at the organ. Her love of music was coupled with her love of poetry...”*

*“... Her one great desire was to foster vocations, and this she did so well. It is to her credit that her scroll in heaven is heavily written with so many of our names – 9 sisters and 3 priests. She truly represented the words of Saint Lucy Filippini, ‘Would that I were many Lucy’s’...”*

*“...After a long and successful career, Sister Margaret retired to Villa Walsh, but her thoughts were always centered on the community. ‘How can I continue to serve and be useful?’ ... Sister Margaret designed doodle note cards which she sold for the community... she had a book published, “My Brother Peter” a recount of his life..., this book being a living testimony of her love for her family...”*

*“... I went to visit Sister Margaret at the rehab center at the time that she was nearing the winter of her life. Her one desire was, ‘I want to go home’ – repeatedly saying, ‘I want to be with God who is the Father, Jesus who is the Son, and the Holy Spirit who is the counselor.’ “ Two weeks later she got her wish. Rest in peace, dear friend.”*