



Born to New Life

Sister Josephine Ridolfo, MPF



Sister Josephine Ridolfo, MPF, 92, died peacefully in St. Joseph Hall Infirmary, at Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey, on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

Born in Montclair, New Jersey, on February 18, 1929, Sister Josephine entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1947. She received the habit in 1948 and made her religious profession in 1950. Sister Josephine studied Elementary Education, earning a BS degree from Catholic Teachers' College in Providence, Rhode Island, and a MA from Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey.

Sister Josephine ministered to the people of God wherever needed. During her 73 years of religious life, she served as classroom teacher, catechist, pastoral minister, Principal, and Director of Religious Education in nine (arch)dioceses: Brooklyn, Camden, Hartford, Newark, New York, Norwich, Providence, Scranton, and Trenton. Additionally, Sister Josephine was appointed convent superior of St. Bernadette, Brooklyn, New York, St. Joseph, Lodi, New Jersey, and Paul VI, Haddonfield, New Jersey. Due to declining health, Sister Josephine retired to St. Joseph Hall in 2017.

Sister Marianne McCann, who lived with Sister Josephine at Paul VI Convent in Haddonfield for many years expressed these sentiments, *"Wherever Sister Josephine ministered, she was a decisive leader, mentor, and a quiet pervasive presence. We always knew her as a peaceful and prayerful religious woman. A keen observer of humanity and an avid reader, Sister Josephine was honest and direct when she had to be, but usually was quiet and private. She is remembered fondly. Parishioners speak often of her even though she has not been at St. Joseph the Worker Parish since 2015."*

In her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province, Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, recalled Sister Josephine's transition from living in a local convent to St. Joseph Hall. Sister Ascenza wrote, *"Such moves are challenging and daunting, and although Sister Josephine knew it was time to make this transition, it nevertheless required trust and stamina. When she entered her room at St. Joseph Hall, captivated by this new space, gratitude immediately superseded the worries and concerns of this move, and an appreciation surfaced that has lingered through her four years at St. Joseph Hall. Last Tuesday, Sister Josephine made her last passage, this one to eternal life. May she be forever grateful."*

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Josephine was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Monday, November 8, 2021. 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, New Jersey, observed, *"On All Souls Day, the very day we commemorate all those who have died, Jesus who conquered death came to call Sister Josephine home to the fullness of life. Her very passing away from us, so peacefully, was itself a sign of the peace she brought to others, and the eternal rest to which God has called her. May Jesus whom she believed, hoped in and loved as Lord, now be the Savior who rescues her from the darkness of death and usher her into the glorious light of God's Presence."*