



Born to New Life

Sister Angelina Mazzarella, MPF



Sister Angelina Mazzarella, MPF, 83, died peacefully on Friday, July 15, 2022, at Morristown Medical Center, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born into a large and loving family on November 28, 1938, in Exeter, Pennsylvania, Sister Angelina entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1956, received the habit in 1957, and made her religious profession in 1960. Receiving a BS degree in Elementary Education from Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, Sister Angelina faithfully and diligently served as a classroom teacher in the following (arch)dioceses: Camden, Newark, Paterson, Scranton, and Trenton. Due to declining health, Sister Angelina retired to St. Joseph Hall Infirmary, Villa Walsh in 2019.

In her tribute, Sister Marie Antonelli, who lived with Sister Angelina for many years at Holy Spirit Convent, Pequannock, New Jersey, offered these reflections: *“Generations of students at Holy Spirit School were blessed by the kind and gentle teaching of Sister Angelina. She infused each lesson with ‘God’ and ‘joy’ and ‘love,’ no matter the subject. By finding and nurturing the best in each child, she was a shining example for parents of how to love every young person as a child of God. For parishioners, she provided a religious presence, friendship, and the perfect example of a servant of God. ... Sister Angelina’s legacy at Holy Spirit School lives on in the thousands of her students who learned to know and love Jesus through her teaching. ... As the news began to circulate of Sister Angelina’s passing, beautiful sentiments were posted on Facebook, Instagram, and e-mail. They all spoke of her beautiful smile, kindness, love of God, care for our children, and her dedication as a teacher. Yesterday I opened the front door of the convent to find two boxes delivered by the United Parcel Service. I looked at the label to find a hand-written note from one of Sister Angelina’s former students, Michael, who happened to be the delivery man. The message was, ‘Sister Marie, I am sorry about Sister Angelina – she was always so kind to me.’ Michael was the student that no teacher wanted on their roster in September. When Sister Angelina was blessed with him, he became a new person. He never forgot her kindness.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province shared, *“The message of Sister Angelina’s rapidly declining health, and soon after, the announcement of her passing, touched a sensitive chord in my heart. Sister Angelina was a member of my Investiture Group, the Holy Name of Mary. ... While I extend my sympathy to you today, ... I also celebrate with you from afar, Sister Angelina’s life of fidelity, goodness, and perseverance. Recalling her from the time of her entrance, Sister Angelina... was obedient, humble, reserved, kind, and very comfortable taking second place. Her solid, simple but strong faith, revealed itself in her intense life of prayer. It was obvious this took priority; Christ was the center of her modest life. ... For those of you who knew Sister Angelina, you also know the familiar line that was included in every greeting or conversation of hers, ‘God is joy!’ This was her life ‘mantra!’ These words were also part of the decorations in her classroom, her students chorus response to ‘Who is God?’ and the legacy of ‘joy’ that she leaves behind.”* *“Sister Angelina, may the Holy Name of Mary provide you entrance into eternal life, and I pray your encounter with the ‘God of joy’ exceed your every expectation. Rest in peace!”*

The Reverend Father Alfred Lampron, former pastor of Holy Spirit Church in Pequannock, New Jersey, offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh. Sister Angelina’s body was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.