



Born to New Life Sister Dolores Potkay, MPF

Sister Dolores Potkay, MPF, 83, died peacefully on Sunday, June 19, 2022, at Morristown Medical Center, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, on January 15, 1939, Sister Dolores attended Villa Victoria Academy in Trenton, New Jersey on full scholarship. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1957, received the habit in 1958 and made her religious profession in 1961. Sister Dolores studied Mathematics, earning an AB degree from The College of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station, New Jersey, and a MS from University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana. Sister Dolores was also awarded a MA in Religious Education from LaSalle University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sister Dolores valued her life as a Religious Teacher Filippini. She embraced the various ministries assigned to her with sincerity and humility. During her 63 years of religious life, she served as classroom teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal, Provincial Councillor, Provincial Secretary, and Directress of Formation. Sister Dolores worked in the (arch)dioceses of Baltimore, Camden, Hartford, Newark, Paterson, and Trenton. Additionally, Sister Dolores was appointed convent superior of Villa Victoria in Trenton, New Jersey, and Saint Joseph in Hammonton, New Jersey. She was elected to serve as a delegate to both Provincial and General Chapters. Due to declining health, Sister Dolores retired to Saint Joseph Hall at Villa Walsh in Morristown, New Jersey, in 2013.

In her letter to the Sisters of the Province, Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior wrote, “A proud graduate of Villa Victoria Academy and intellectually gifted, Sister Dolores served humbly, yet intensely, simply but nobly, justly though kindly. Although reserved, she lived life fully and passionately. In this year of jubilee, when we are celebrating Saint Lucy Filippini, Woman of the Word, I am reminded of Sister Dolores’ profound love for the Scriptures and her ability to share God’s Word. I was fortunate to have been part of a Scripture-sharing group that she guided at Villa Walsh when she was Formator. Always knowledgeable and well-prepared, she invited and affirmed participation, and brought the sharing to a practical level that inspired and concluded with prayer. I will always be grateful to her for this rich experience.”

Sister Lesley Draper, who had Sister Dolores as Formation Directress, and also lived with her at Villa Victoria, shared, “Sister Dolores was an Easter person. Although the last decade of her life was more like the Way of the Cross, she persevered in the footsteps of Jesus, and is now receiving her reward as she beholds God face to face. Sister Dolores ... [often said] that the only time you can say that someone persevered is once she is in the grave. ... [This was] an acknowledgement of the free will given to us by God, the power of grace in our daily lives, and, in true Sister Dolores fashion, the ‘matter-of-factness’ that you haven’t done it until you have done it. She fought the good fight. She finished the race. Now, she is surrounded by myriads upon myriads of angels and saints singing an unending chorus of Alleluias. ‘The strife is o’er, the battle done; the victory of life is won.’ May Sister Dolores hear God saying to her, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant.’ Alleluia! Alleluia!”

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Dolores was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Thursday, June 23, 2022. Her body was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

