



## Born to New Life

### Sister Ann Marie Mecca, MPF



Sister Ann Marie Mecca, MPF, died peacefully on October 1, 2023, at St. Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. She was 88 years of age.

Sister Ann Marie was born on May 6, 1935, in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, and raised in a large and loving family. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1950, received the habit in 1951 and made her religious profession in 1954. Sister Ann Marie studied Elementary Education, and earned a BS and MA degree from Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey.

In her 72 years of religious life, Sister Ann Marie served as classroom teacher, Principal, and catechist in the following (arch)dioceses: Baltimore, Hartford, Metuchen, Newark, New York, Ogdensburg, Paterson, and Trenton. In addition, Sister Ann Marie was appointed a local convent Superior. One of her greatest joys was ministering to the Sisters in the Infirmary at Villa Walsh. Sister generously offered assistance wherever needed. Due to declining health, Sister Ann Marie transitioned to St. Joseph Hall in 2017.

Father Charles Kelly offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday, October 5, 2023, in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh. Sister Ann Marie was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Sister Patricia Pompa, Provincial Superior, in her words of welcome to those in attendance stated, *“Our faith and belief in the Resurrection gives us comfort and hope even though our hearts are saddened by Sister Ann Marie’s passing. This parting message is what Sister Ann Marie wanted to share: ‘I entered the convent at 15 years old. If I had my life to live over again, I would do the same thing because I loved being a Filippini Sister. I loved every class that I taught. I enjoyed ... working in the Infirmary. I enjoyed taking care of the Sisters when they were sick...bringing them trays...and giving them daily care. I enjoyed working in the Archives, Music Library, and especially the Chapel. I loved making home-made pasta.’ Sister Ann Marie ended her comments by saying, ‘Thank you for a wonderful life!’ As we prepare to celebrate this Sacred Liturgy, we thank Almighty God for Sister Ann Marie’s wonderful life of generous, loving, and joy-filled service that knew no bounds!”*

In her eulogy, Sister Marie Antonelli, offered these thoughts: *“I first met Sister Ann Marie in 1972 when I was assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Newark, [New Jersey]. Sister Ann Marie was a happy and peaceful person to be missioned with...She had many gifts and was always willing to share them with everyone. Sister Ann Marie spread Christ’s word in all she did. She was pivotal in the lives of so many...especially the students she taught. They loved her...Through the years many would return to seek her advice as they moved on in life...Today we celebrate her union with her Bridegroom as He welcomes her tenderly into His Kingdom.*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her remarks shared, *“How grateful I am to still be among you today, so appreciative for this opportunity to personally express my sympathy to Sister Ann Marie’s family, and to add my sentiments to the tribute we render Sister Ann Marie at this Eucharistic celebration. Sister Ann Marie’s passing...recalls her joyful, helpful, generous, multifaceted presence among us. ... Many years ago, Sister Ann Marie became a slave of Mary. ... In her days of good health, she faithfully daily walked these grounds praying the Rosary in hand. How timely that the Lord has called her home during this special month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. In the midst of today’s grief, what a joy and consolation to know that Our Lady to whom Sister Ann Marie was so loyal and mindful throughout her life, awaits her and assures her that her loyalty is not that of a slave but of a loving daughter. ... How powerful is the tenderness of our Mother! Queen of the Holy Rosary, pray for us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, accompany each of us in our final hour.”*