



Born to New Life

Sister Assunta Rinaldi, MPF



Sister Assunta Rinaldi, MPF died peacefully on November 16, 2023, at St. Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. She was 92 years of age.

Sister Assunta was born on July 8, 1931, in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, and was raised in a large and loving family. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1945, received the habit in 1947, and made her religious profession in 1950. Sister Assunta earned a BS degree in Elementary Education from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey.

In her 76 years of religious life, Sister Assunta faithfully ministered as a classroom teacher, nursery aide, catechist, and instructional aide in the (arch)dioceses of Camden, Metuchen, Newark, Norwich, Paterson and Trenton. In 2022, due to declining health, Sister Assunta transitioned to St. Joseph Hall.

Father Joseph Ferraro offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, November 25, 2023, in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh. The Liturgy was concelebrated by Father Ronald Sordillo. Sister Assunta was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

In his homily, Father Joseph Ferraro offered these thoughts: *“Sister Assunta arrived at St. Anthony of Padua, Belleville, New Jersey, shortly after my eighth grade graduation. In Sister Assunta’s 76 years of religious life, she faithfully lived her ministry as a Maestra Pia to the fullest, following the example of love of Mother Foundress, St. Lucy Filippini. Sister Assunta touched the lives of the many students she taught through the years. She dried the tears of children in her care in the nursery schools, as well as shared her faith and love of Jesus and his Blessed Mother as she nurtured the children in the faith. She used her God-given talents and her skills...all for the honor and glory of God the Father. Sister Assunta, may you rest in peace.”*

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, a longtime friend of Sister Assunta, was unable to attend the funeral Mass. He sent this message, *“I wish to extend my sincere condolences to Sister Patricia, to all Religious Teachers Filippini and to Sister Assunta’s dear family, and many friends at her death. We have watched her, accompanied by our prayers and the loving care of her community, gradually fade and pass peacefully from our midst. The untold good she did in extending herself to others, her devout prayer life and her living as a Maestra Pia now plead before the throne of God’s grace. Our prayers now join her good works. May God look lovingly on her whom he has called to himself and bring her to the fullness of life in heaven.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy remarked, *“How grateful I was for the opportunity to spend some time with Sister Assunta during my recent visit to the United States! On my first visit, edified by her initial greeting ‘You know, I am dying,’ words whispered with such peace and calm, flowed so unexpectedly that they still resonate. The words implied Sister Assunta’s acceptance and readiness to take this final journey with ease. ... For some years, in the quiet and hollow of early morning, Sister Assunta rose early to start her day with a private holy hour in this chapel, before the community gathered for morning prayer. She found this strengthening. ... No doubt it was during these years that she reinforced a very strong, trusting relationship with God the Father. How often she referred to God the Father’s presence in her life and freely shared His goodness in her conversation with others. And now she experiences His love and fidelity from an ever deeper perspective. ... For all this, today, let us give thanks!”*