



Born to New Life



Sister Alma Blume, MPF

Sister Alma Blume, MPF, died peacefully at the age of 93 on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at Morristown Medical Center, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Sister Alma entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1945. She received the habit in 1947 and made her religious profession in 1950.

From an early age, Sister Alma had a love for learning and was an avid reader. She earned a BS degree in Education from Fordham University, New York, New York, and an MS in Guidance from Marywood College, Marywood, Pennsylvania.

Throughout her 77 years of religious life, Sister Alma zealously shared her gifts and talents in a myriad of ways. She ministered as classroom teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal, Director of Religious Education, Guidance Counselor at both the elementary and high school levels, engaged in retreat ministry and served as Delegate for Religious. In addition, she was named Directress of both Formation and Vocation promotion for the Province of Saint Lucy. Sister Alma was appointed local convent Superior and was elected a delegate to Provincial and General Chapters.

Sister Alma was missioned in the (arch)dioceses of Camden, Hartford, Metuchen, Newark, New York, Paterson, Philadelphia, Santa Fe, and Trenton. For 12 years, Sister Alma competently served as Director of Religious Education at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, a parish that welcomed the Religious Teachers Filippini into their faith community in 2001. Due to declining health, Sister Alma took up residence in Saint Joseph Hall at Villa Walsh in 2015. In her last nine years of life, Sister Alma courageously bore her long-term suffering with admirable faith, patience, and acceptance.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Alma was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Saturday, September 14, 2024. 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, making reference to changing the direction of a train, shared, *“Death hastens to end life. But Christ himself, by his death on the Cross has ‘tripped the switch’ and robbed death of its victims. He has made our dying with him the beginning of a new life, God’s own eternal life. Here is the hope we have today as we hand Sister Alma back to God.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province wrote, ... *“Sister Alma possessed a strong, dignified posture that demanded respect from everyone she encountered regardless of age, position, or title. Efficient, organized, detailed and meticulous best describe her. When a matter was grave, Sister Alma could calmly and firmly settle a problem and offer sound advice. When the matter was light, Sister Alma was the first to welcome and initiate laughter and fun. Among her many talents, Sister Alma was a great speaker and entertainer: articulate, prepared, and polished, readily capturing the attention of her audience. She was the emcee at many of our community gatherings and possessed the ability to keep the program moving and light. ... She possessed the ability to make every Sister shine.”* Mother General continued, *“Because of diminishing health, Sister Alma returned to New Jersey aware and resigned of her need to enter Saint Joseph Hall. During her early years as a patient, she was always present and faithful to Mass, prayer times, and meals with the Sisters in the Chapel, dining room, and lounge. Her quiet presence also reflected peace and acceptance of the cross now handed her. ... The Gospel reminds us, ‘Whoever wishes to come after me must deny herself, take up her cross and follow me.’ On this special Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, when light is cast on the great impact the Cross has in our lives, we are encouraged that Sister Alma in her last years was able to embrace the Cross and share quietly in Jesus’ sufferings. This is the result of a prayerful Maestra, who allowed Jesus to transform her and ready her for eternal life. Sister Alma, ... rest in peace!”*