



Born to New Life



Sister Lucille Fitzpatrick, MPF

Sister Lucille Fitzpatrick, MPF, died peacefully at the age of 92 on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at St. Joseph Hall Infirmary, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born on May 22, 1931, in Middletown, Connecticut, Sister Lucille was the oldest of the three children of John and Lucille (Culver) Fitzpatrick. As a young adult, Sister Lucille embraced the Catholic faith. Discerning a further call to religious life, Sister Lucille entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1951, received the habit in 1952, and made her religious profession in 1955. She earned a BS degree in Elementary Education at the College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey.

In her 71 years of religious life, Sister Lucille faithfully ministered as a primary classroom teacher in the (arch)dioceses of Baltimore, Newark, New York, Ogdensburg, Providence and Scranton. She was an avid reader and utilized her skills as a librarian in the Dioceses of Camden and Paterson. As a competent librarian, Sister Lucille served at Villa Walsh Academy in Morristown, New Jersey, for thirteen years. For almost thirty years of her apostolic life, Sister Lucille served as an efficient librarian, a devoted secretary and a meticulous bookkeeper at Villa Victoria Academy in Trenton, New Jersey. In 2015, Sister Lucille retired to St. Joseph Hall.

The Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, offered the Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Lucille in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Monday, March 11, 2024. Her body was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province wrote, "My first vivid recall of Sister Lucille was her stellar reputation as the librarian at Villa Walsh Academy and her availability to assist and offer advice to our librarians in our parish schools. Later, I came to know Sister better as Villa Victoria Academy's competent bookkeeper. ... When ill health demanded Sister Lucille leave Villa Victoria and enter St. Joseph Hall, it was a challenging move, yet her resilience was commendable. During her years at the Infirmary there were always signs of gratitude for the blessings it provided. ... Never losing her great love and interest for Villa Victoria, she indulged in hearing Villa's news and progress. No doubt Villa Victoria has a new patron in heaven!"

In her words of tribute, Sister Lesley Draper, who lived and worked with Sister Lucille at Villa Victoria, shared, "Throughout her life as a Religious Teacher Filippini, Sister Lucille embodied the words of the psalmist: 'I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.' (Psalm 130:5) ... Sister Lucille sometimes was called the lady-in-waiting because she was always ahead of schedule and then sat waiting for the next event that was to happen, whether it was prayers, dinner or a trip to the store. She seemed perfectly content to sit peacefully waiting using the time for prayer and reflection. In no way does this mean that Sister Lucille was inactive. In fact, it was just the opposite. ... She ran the business office of the school and was very conscientious about her work; her skillfulness resulted in a well-run office. She also served as the convent sacristan for many years. ... When not working in the office or chapel, Sister Lucille enjoyed a variety of hobbies: caring for plants, reading, crocheting baby blankets and hats, and lovingly caring for the convent cat. ... This past week the day finally came when Sister Lucille no longer had to wait. Like one of the wise virgins, she was prepared by a lifetime of waiting on the Lord.... What a joyous next phase of life this must be for her! May we learn from Sister Lucille's example of patient waiting, of gentleness, and of appreciation for all the details God shares with us in His created world. May we, like Sister Lucille, orient our whole being toward the Lord and hope in His word."