



Born to New Life

Sister Elizabeth Szilvasi, MPF



Sister Elizabeth Szilvasi, MPF, died peacefully at the age of 86 on Friday, January 19, 2024, at St. Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

A native of Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, Sister Elizabeth witnessed first-hand the good example of the *Maestre Pie* who ministered in her hometown. In 1953 she entered the Religious Teachers Filippini, received her habit in 1954, and made her religious profession in 1957. Sister Elizabeth studied Elementary Education, earning a BS degree from Mount St. Joseph College in Wakefield, Rhode Island, and a MS degree from the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

In her 69 years of religious life, Sister Elizabeth ministered as a classroom teacher and Principal. She faithfully served in the (arch)dioceses of Albany, Cleveland, Hartford, Newark, Ogdensburg, Providence and Trenton. In addition, Sister Elizabeth served the community as a local convent superior in Watertown, New York, and Akron, Ohio, where she also served as Principal for more than 30 years. In 2022, due to declining health, Sister Elizabeth retired to St. Joseph Hall at Villa Walsh.

Reverend Monsignor Sylvester Cronin offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday, January 25, 2024, in St. Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh. Monsignor stated, *“As we gather to celebrate Holy Mass together for Sister Elizabeth’s soul, we know well that God loves her. We know well that God loves us, and at our death, He does not abandon us, but comes and takes us to the place that has been promised since the beginning of time.”* Following the Liturgy, Sister Elizabeth’s body was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Sister Barbara Takacs, a friend of Sister Elizabeth’s since childhood recalled, *“Sister Elizabeth grew up in a closely knit family and was the youngest of five children. When she was six months old her father died in a hit and run accident. While she never knew her father, the love and support of her mother and older siblings helped her grow into a loving and giving person. ... We attended Purification BVM School ...and were taught by a wonderful group of Religious Teachers Filippini. Sister Esther Del Duca, Sister Mary Zucca, Sister Mary DeAngelis, Sister Louise Del Carpine, our Vocation Club leader, to mention a few of happy memory. We became close to the Sisters and helped them whenever asked. In June of 1953, I went over to Elizabeth’s house and found her in a tree in front of her house reading a book. I told her that I was going to Villa Walsh and asked her if she wanted to come. She went and told her mother. We entered on July 11th. ... As a true follower of St. Lucy Filippini, Sister Elizabeth embraced the spirit of St. Lucy in dedicating her life in the service of God, the Church and the Christian education of youth.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province offered: *“In my experience and association with Sister Elizabeth, so many attributes immediately come to mind, her goodness, thoughtfulness, and generosity high among them. Though quiet, and serene by nature and appearance, she enjoyed people and laughter, and was so approachable. A local superior for many years, she will be remembered for her hospitality, genuine and gracious. ... In addition to her responsibilities at school, Sister Elizabeth enjoyed other hobbies and interests. So proud of her garden, she planted both simple and exotic flowers and vegetables that served and allowed her to generously share its harvest. Cooking and baking were also among the gifts she shared. ... And so, Sister Elizabeth, your tireless commitment will forever remain carved in our hearts. You have shared a sterling presence among us that encourages us with a strong desire to do good. Today may you find your reward in God’s heavenly presence and receive God’s welcome into His Kingdom.”*