



Born to New Life

Sister Mary Dolores Ferrecchia, MPF



Sister Mary Dolores Ferrecchia, MPF, 96, died peacefully on Saturday, July 25, 2020, in Morristown Medical Center, Morristown, New Jersey. Born in Marlboro, Mass, in 1923, Sister Mary Dolores entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1952. She received the habit in 1953 and made her religious profession in 1956.

Sister Mary Dolores received a Bachelor of Arts degree in French with a minor in Spanish from Good Counsel College in White Plains, New York, and a Master of Arts degree in French from Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. Early in her educational ministry, Sister Mary Dolores was afforded an opportunity to advance her expertise in Spanish by residing with the Dominican Sisters of Fatima in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and joined them in their catechetical ministry.

As an outstanding educator, Sister Mary Dolores taught language studies in Villa Victoria Academy for over 28 years. Additionally, she served as coordinator of students who boarded at the Academy and was highly respected for her oral and written linguistic talents. Sister Mary Dolores ministered in St. Joseph High School in Hammonton, New Jersey, for over 20 years as part time teacher of French. She also moderated the local ASLF chapter. In addition to these fruitful apostolates, Sister Mary Dolores represented the community as delegate to the General Chapter in Rome, and scripted several anniversary productions of the Institute's historical mission in the United States.

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, shared these sentiments, *“Sister Mary Dolores eagerly volunteered to work on two major projects that accented the observance of our one-hundred-year history in America. She was the assisting editor of ‘Overflowing with Gratitude’ our centennial memorial book, and the chief editor of our centennial DVD, ‘Walk with Us through a Century of Service.’ These treasured productions convey her deep sentiments and esteem for our Filippini history and presence in America.”*

Following her years of active ministry in education, Sister Mary Dolores continued to compose literary masterpieces on a full time basis. Enjoying the prayerful atmosphere at Villa Walsh, Sister Mary Dolores spent her last years in St. Joseph Hall Infirmery. Her kind manner will long be remembered by the Sisters as well as the staff who cared for her there.

In the funeral tribute written by the Sisters and Alumnae of Villa Victoria Academy, the Class of 1960 offered these sentiments: *“As a woman whose high ideals we admired and whose friendship we cherished, Sister Mary Dolores served as an inspiration who mirrored ideals of gentle womanliness with her tranquil manner, soft spoken voice, and quiet humor. Sister Mary Dolores was indeed a great influence on our lives.”*

Sister Ascenza concluded her letter with these words, *“May your entrance into eternal life, be so much more glorious than you ever anticipated, for it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’”*