

Born to New Life

Sister Mary Del Bonis, MPF



After a long and fruitful life, Sister Mary Del Bonis, M.P.F, 106, died on Wednesday, July 3, 2019, in the Saint Joseph Hall Infirmary at Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born in Cranston in 1912, Sister Mary entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1934. She received the habit in 1935 and made her religious profession in 1938. A Bachelor of Arts degree was received from Seton Hall University in Elementary Education.

Sister Mary served the community as an elementary school teacher for forty-three years. She taught in the following schools: Saint Mary of the Lake in Watkins Glen, New York; Saint James and Saint Joachim, Trenton, New Jersey; Our Lady of Sorrows, Jersey City, New Jersey; Our Lady of Libera, West New York, New Jersey; Our Lady of Mt. Virgin, Garfield, New Jersey; Saint Joseph, Hammonton, New Jersey; Holy Family, Nutley, New Jersey; Purification of the BVM, Ellwood City, Pennsylvania; Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Bristol, Rhode Island; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Meriden, Connecticut; Saint Pius X, Westerly, Rhode Island; and Saint Mary, Cranston, Rhode Island; and served as pastoral minister in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Bristol, Rhode Island.

In 2001, Sister Mary retired at Villa Walsh and happily assisted with household chores until she was admitted to Saint Joseph Hall in 2012. During her years in Saint Joseph Hall much of her day was absorbed in prayer and Adoration. What an inspiration she was to the entire community!

Father Ron Sordillo, celebrant at her Mass of Resurrection, in his homily expounded on Sister Mary's life of prayer:

"Sister Mary loved God so much that she spent much time in the Chapel alone with God, loving God and being with God. She often questioned, 'Why is God keeping me here so long?' I would respond, 'God wants you to stay here to do what God wants you to do.' A few days before her passing, she did tell me she would not be here much longer, and that she was so ready to see God. God heard her request and this last time responded to Sister Mary 'Come to me all you who labor and are burdened, I will give you rest...' Sister Mary has labored and worked a long time for God. She loved, pleased, and served God. Now all her wishes and desires are fulfilled. She sees God face to face."

These are excerpts of a letter from Sister Ascenza Tizzano, Provincial Superior, who was at the General Chapter, Rome, at the time of Sister Mary's passing:

"Although an ocean may divide us today, together with the American General Chapter Delegates we are so united with you in sentiments of sadness..."

"How proud we each were to share that we had a sister among us who was 106 years old and still able to be so much of the part of her religious community. At the same time, we are even more gratified to say that we had a sister 106 years old who lived a very fruitful, prayerful life. In her last years her life was solely focused on all that was holy. Be certain, when she entered the Heavenly Kingdom and met the Lord, Our Lady and all the saints and angels, they were not strangers to one another. They filled her every day on earth and now she shares eternity with them. May she reap the rewards of a faithful daughter of Saint Lucy."

"Sister Mary leaves many special memories behind. Although she wanted nothing printed on paper, memories of Sister Mary are engraved on our hearts and will remain legendary."

"May Sister Mary remember and intercede for the Community and all those she loved and served before God's throne until we all meet again."