



Born to New Life Sister Grace Zizza, MPF



Sister Grace Zizza, MPF, died peacefully at the age of 85, on Monday, October 4, 2021, in the St. Joseph Hall Infirmary at Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born in Newark, New Jersey, Sister Grace was a graduate of St. Francis Xavier School. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1952, received the habit in 1953, and made her religious profession in 1956. Sister Grace was awarded an AA diploma by Villa Walsh Junior College and a BS degree from the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, having majored in Elementary Education. Sister Grace noted of her early years, *“My life rotated around the church and the Sisters in my parish, especially Sister Margherita Marchione. I had a wonderful family life being the youngest of eight children.”*

In her 68 years of religious life, Sister Grace taught elementary grades in a number of schools in the following Archdioceses: Hartford, Newark, and Philadelphia, and in the Dioceses of: Cleveland, Hartford, Metuchen, Norwich, Ogdensburg, Pittsburgh, and Trenton. Additionally, Sister Grace was appointed convent Superior of St. James, Trenton, New Jersey, St. Mary of Mt. Virgin, New Brunswick, New Jersey and St. Cecelia, Iselin, New Jersey.

In 1991, Sister Grace was selected by her colleagues and honored by the Diocese of Metuchen in their Celebration of Excellence in Education. This award was in recognition of her dedication and contribution to Catholic education. After years of teaching, Sister Grace served as librarian of St. Cecelia School in Iselin. In 2012, Sister Grace retired to St. Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh, Morristown, NJ.

In her eulogy, Sister Catherine Iacouzze recalled, *“Sister Grace had a special gift of touching the hearts of all her students and they reciprocated the same love in return. She was always going above and beyond to help her students succeed.”*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, wrote a letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province and stated, *“While in active ministry, Sister Grace extended herself wholeheartedly to the people she served. Among Sister Grace’s gifts, one that emerges and that I admired was the warm welcome she shared with any visitor who entered Saint Joseph Hall.”* Sister Laura Longo, former Superior of Saint Joseph Hall noted, *“Sister Grace deeply esteemed the persons and services offered her. Each and every time, as well as for the most insignificant favor received, she would express her ‘Thank You.’”*

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Grace was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Friday, October 8, 2021, followed by her burial in the Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

In his homily, the Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, spoke these words: *“The letter to the Hebrews tells us, we have no permanent home. We are travelers on our way to heaven. Sister Grace traveled this world, full of faith and love. True to her name, she graced others with her pleasant smile, kind words, and love for God’s creatures... Her death is the graduation for which her whole life wisely prepared her. Death came to Sister Grace on Monday, not to end her life, but to escort her to the eternal banquet that God has prepared for us.”* May Sister Grace now rest in the peace of Christ, her Beloved Spouse.