



Born to New Life

Sister Rosmunda Rohr, MPF



On Sunday, October 31, 2021, the day after her 96th birthday, Sister Rosmunda Rohr, MPF, died peacefully in St. Joseph Hall Infirmary, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. A Mass of Christian Burial was held in St. Lucy Chapel, on Thursday, November 4, 2021. The celebrant, Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, also presided at the burial of Sister Rosmunda's remains in Ave Maria Cemetery.

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey on October 30, 1925, Sister Rosmunda entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1940. She received the habit in 1941, and made her religious profession in 1944. Sister Rosmunda earned a degree from Villa Walsh Normal School in 1947, and was also awarded a certificate and diploma in Religion.

In her first 20 years of religious life she served in the following (arch)diocese: Baltimore, Hartford, Newark, Ogdensburg, Providence, Scranton, and Trenton. Notably, she was among the founding Sisters at St. Anne's in New Britain, Connecticut.

Called to serve in England, Ireland and Brazil, Sister Rosmunda was born with the heart of a missionary. In 1962, Sister Rosmunda was one of the first five Filippini Sisters to open a mission in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In time, Sister Rosmunda would lead the Brazilian Sisters, serving as Vice-Provincial Superior for 10 years.

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of consolation to the Province wrote, *“With an exemplary spirit of obedience and detachment, Sister Rosmunda willingly accepted assignments in various countries: Brazil, two different times, England, and Ireland. Her love of community, her many good works and sacrifices, her joy in serving diverse peoples, and the lives she touched worldwide have earned her the admiration of the entire Institute.”*

The Sisters who lived with Sister Rosmunda in Brazil recalled, *“Sister Rosmunda was such a human Maestra, charitable always attentive to the needs of the Sisters; she knew how to unite goodness and firmness; She was like a mother to me, gentle always worried about the wellbeing of everyone. When she was our Vice-Provincial, I remember her as a good Sister, peaceful, always serving, a woman of faith and example in her duties and in community life. She felt great pleasure in doing good. Her presence will never be forgotten.”*

In 2010, after suffering a stroke, Sister Rosmunda returned to the United States and took up residence in St. Joseph Hall where she continued to be the good Maestra she was throughout her faithful and fruitful life.

In his homily, the Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli noted, *“Faithfully living the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience for 80 years as a Religious Teacher Filippini, Sister Rosmunda belonged to the Lord in her thoughts, deeds, and affections. Whether as a teacher or an administrator, whether in America, Ireland, England, or Brazil, she was a true missionary, bringing peace and joy into the lives of others. ... In health and in sickness, Jesus remained always the Lord of her life. It is because Jesus in whom she believed, in whom she trusted, died and rose for us, even in our sadness at her passing, we have hope even in this moment. ... For we do not belong to death. We belong to God in life, we belong to God in death. And so, we pray that Sister Rosmunda...now enjoys the fullness of God's life and love.”*