



Born to New Life



Sister Margherita Marchione, MPF

Sister Margherita Marchione, MPF, died peacefully at the age of 99 on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, in St. Joseph Hall Infirmary, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey. Born in Little Ferry, New Jersey, Sister Margherita entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1935. She received the habit in 1938, and made her religious profession in 1941. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgian Court College, Sister Margherita continued her studies in Italian at Columbia University, New York, earning both Master's and Doctorate degrees. She received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Ramapo College and the "Michael Award" from the New Jersey Literary Hall of Fame. She was a trustee of Bayley-Ellard High School and the Opera at Florham, and was a member of the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission. Sister Margherita was a Fulbright Scholar. She received countless national and international honors and awards for her literary and historical accomplishments and contributions to higher education and Italian culture. Sister Margherita served as President of Walsh College for 6 years and as President of Corfinio College for 10 years. Sister Margherita is included in the *Congressional Record* and in biographical references such as *Dictionary of American Scholars*, *Contemporary Authors*, *World Who's Who of Women*, and *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women*. In addition to lecturing here and abroad, Sister Margherita was interviewed numerous times on radio and television.

As Professor of Italian Language and Literature at Fairleigh Dickenson University in Madison, New Jersey, for 20 years, Sister Margherita authored numerous books on Philip Mazzei. These works clearly and colorfully reveal the full import of this mostly unknown and neglected Italian Founding Father of America, as well as the Italian influence on the United States Constitution.

Sister Margherita's great devotion to the Holy See and, in particular, to Pope Pius XII's sanctity and fidelity to the office entrusted to him, made her eminently worthy of multiple articles in *Inside the Vatican*, and the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross, awarded by Pope Saint John Paul II. Sister Margherita's collection of research papers, books and artifacts of Pius XII are a great treasure for which we are duly proud and grateful. However, as Bishop Emeritus Arthur Serratelli stated in his homily at her Mass of Christian Burial, "*Sister Margherita has left us the legacy of many scholarly works, but her greatest legacy is her life. Across the pages of her life, she allowed the Divine Author to write in bold letters. Each chapter of her life for the last century has been a testament of cooperation with God's will, an untiring search for truth and a profound joy in living as a daughter of Saint Lucy Filippini. Trusting in his providence, she let God use her talents and the events of her life to pen his truth and love.*"

For over 82 years, Sister Margherita was a devoted member of the Religious Teachers Filippini, where she was highly respected for her valued contributions and devotion to the Institute. Her efficacious deeds and holiness of life made her a dynamic leader as she served as Treasurer, Delegate to Provincial and General Chapters, Councilor, and author of numerous community documents and histories. Sister Margherita received the Religious Teachers Filippini Humanitarian Award as a gesture of great esteem and deep appreciation.