



Born to New Life

Sister Anne Marie Pace, MPF



Sister Anne Marie Pace, MPF, died at the age of 98 on Friday, October 14, 2022, in St. Joseph Hall Infirmary, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey.

Born in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, on September 13, 1924, Sister Anne Marie entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1940. She received the habit in 1941 and made her religious profession in 1945. Sister Anne Marie studied Elementary Education, earning a BS degree from Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey and a MS in Social Studies from Canisius College, Buffalo, New York.

A dedicated classroom teacher, Sister Anne Marie taught in the (arch)dioceses of Baltimore, Hartford, Metuchen, Newark, Scranton, and Trenton during her 81 years of religious life. In 2020, Sister Anne Marie retired to Villa Walsh.

Sister Elizabeth Toft, who lived with Sister Anne Marie at Saint Jerome Convent in West Long Branch, New Jersey, after Sister Anne Marie's retirement offered these words of tribute, *"Sister Anne Marie was truly faithful to her consecration as a religious Sister... She never 'tired' of helping children learn. One of her greatest joys was tutoring students when they were having difficulty, and getting them to understand the concept or skill they needed to succeed. Sister Anne Marie was an excellent teacher...always offering her words of wisdom and guidance...Grateful for whatever anyone did for her, Sister Anne Marie expressed the blessings she received from God all throughout her life."*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province recalled, *"Sister Anne Marie embraced the charism of Saint Lucy and dedicated so many fruitful years to the education of youth. Her students will remember her as a teacher who demanded the very best from them and who reached out willingly and generously to achieve this. She especially extended herself to disadvantaged children. She was ready and willing to give extra time even after school hours to help them improve and progress. Through the years, Sister Anne Marie shared success stories of her students who benefited from her high standards and expectations and today are very successful. Even when Sister Anne Marie was no longer able to teach full-time, she never lost her love for teaching. She continued to work with students who needed further assistance in small groups or individually. ... Sister Anne Marie was a woman of prayer and perseverance in every sense."*

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Anne Marie was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, the 98th anniversary of her Baptism. Her body was then laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

In his homily, Father John Barbella recalled a memory he had of Sister Anne Marie. *"Sister Anne Marie labored for Jesus in so many ways. Every time I said Mass at the convent in Perth Amboy, [New Jersey], I was always struck by how beautifully the sacred linens were done. They were immaculately white, without the slightest wrinkle - and pressed and folded to precision. Learning that Sister Anne Marie was the one who cared for those linens, I told her how nicely they were done. Her response to me was simple and direct: 'Jesus deserves the best.' That answer told me something beautiful about Sister Anne Marie. She loved Jesus so much that she worked behind the scenes at a job almost nobody would notice making sure the linens at Mass were perfect for Him. And now we pray that Jesus who saw and appreciated that labor for Him gives eternal rest to Sister Anne Marie, who loved Him so much."*