



Born to New Life

Sister Rose Iapaola, MPF



Sister Rose Iapaola, MPF, died peacefully on Monday, October 28, 2024, at Saint Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh, Morristown, New Jersey, at the age of 99.

Born to Tobio and Josephine (Fraraccio) Yapaola on August 24, 1925, in Jersey City, New Jersey, Sister Rose grew up in a large, loving, and faith-filled family. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1939, received the habit in 1941, and made her Perpetual Oblation in 1944. Sister Rose was awarded a BS degree in Elementary Education from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey and earned a MA in Religious Studies from Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island.

In her 83 years of religious life, Sister Rose shared her gifts and talents in a myriad of ways. She ministered as classroom teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal, and Director of Religious Education, moderator of parish women's groups, and engaged in parish pastoral ministry. She was appointed to serve on the Commission for the Revision of the *Constitutions and Rules* of the Religious Teachers Filippini from 1978-1979. Fluent in Italian, Sister Rose was called upon multiple times over the course of decades to serve as General Chapter translator, and to assist with secretarial responsibilities. With evident leadership qualities, Sister Rose was appointed local convent Superior.

Sister Rose generously gave of herself in the (arch)dioceses of Albany, Camden, Cleveland, Hartford, Metuchen, Newark, Paterson, Pittsburgh, Providence, Pueblo, Scranton, and Trenton. In 2016, due to declining health, Sister Rose retired to Villa Walsh. Two years later, she took up residence in St. Joseph Hall Infirmary.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Rose was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Monday, November 4, 2024. Her body was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

In his homily, the Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, noted, "*In all her assignments in 12 dioceses, Sister Rose brought joy and the good news that Jesus was the love of her life. ... Because she loved her religious community, she gladly helped others understand one another across language barriers, worked hard to place the community on a solid foundation of Constitutions and Rules, and gladly invited others to become Religious Teachers Filippini.*"

Sister Angela Bulla, a long-time friend, shared, "*In Community, Sister Rose's fervent loyalty involved her in many projects. Her Jersey City wit and wisdom prevailed, as well as her precocious insight. ... We attended every General Chapter from 1969 to 2007, and savored the experience, along with Sister Christine Spirito.*"

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province recalled: "*Although Sister Rose has spent more active years in the Queen of Apostles Province than in the Saint Lucy Province, I had opportunities and encounters with her through the years to aptly confirm her love of mission, love of Community, and her deep devotion to Our Lady and Saint Lucy. Sister Rose was friendly, enjoyed engaging in conversation, and retained a smiling, friendly appearance.... Sister Rose is not foreign to the Generalate or Rome. Following Vatican II, she was commissioned for one year to represent the Queen of Apostles Province in rewriting our Constitutions. I am certain that through the years there remained a sense of awe each time Sister Rose turned page to page of our Constitutions, knowing she participated in this awesome task! ... We can never negate all the good Sister Rose has accomplished in her years of ministry. And during these last years of long-suffering, we take comfort in the words of St. Paul: 'Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day' (2 Cor. 4:16) Today, Sister Rose meets her Lord and Master, purified in His love and grace. She is united with Christ, her loving Spouse, and is rewarded life eternal with Him. Sisters, let us pray that each day we, too, are being renewed in Christ's love and grace.*"