



Born to New Life

Sister Dolores Jensen, MPF



Sister Dolores Jensen, MPF, 88, died peacefully on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at Troy Hills Center in Parsippany, New Jersey.

Born in Orange, New Jersey, Sister Dolores was a graduate of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. She entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1951, received the habit in 1952, and made her religious profession in 1955. Sister Dolores studied Elementary Education, earning a BS degree from the College of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station, New Jersey.

During her 72 years of religious life, Sister Dolores generously and creatively ministered as an elementary school teacher in the (arch)dioceses of Baltimore, Bridgeport, Metuchen, Newark, Philadelphia, Santa Fe, Scranton, and Trenton. She served as Principal in the (arch)dioceses of Newark and Charleston. Additionally, Sister Dolores assumed the role of a local convent superior. Sister Dolores' last assignment was in 2000 when she and three other Sisters began their ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and School in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Sister Dolores transitioned to Villa Walsh in 2016 due to health issues, and in 2023 took up residence in St. Joseph Hall Infirmary.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Dolores was held in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh on Thursday, March 13, 2025, followed by interment in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

In his homily, the Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, observed, *"Today, as we hand back to God Sister Dolores, we do so, saddened by her passing, but grateful for God's goodness she has shared with us. As an infant, she was baptized into Christ and died with Him, rising to new life. For 72 years, she deepened the mystery of her baptism as a consecrated religious, dying to self each day by faithfully living the evangelical counsels. The care and love that the Sisters who taught her in her earliest years inspired her vocation. Like them, kind and self-sacrificing, she lived her life as a dedicated Maestra Pia Filippini. Serving in 9 different dioceses, she generously worked to form her students both academically and spiritually. Because of her goodness, she left a lasting remembrance wherever she served. Christ was the center of her life."*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, wrote a letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province, in which she stated, *"Sister Dolores' life was deeply shaped by her early experiences. After the loss of her mother, who died when Sister Dolores was only a child, she became very attached to the Filippini Sisters at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Orange, where Sister Anne Amato chiefly nurtured her vocation. Sister Dolores always carried a deep sense of gratitude for these early influences, especially for Sister Anne. More significantly, her lifelong gratitude as a member of our Community has remained clearly visible. Her testimony through these years has inspired love and devotion to Saint Lucy, and she was proud and humbled to be accepted as a Filippini Sister. ... Sister Dolores contributed greatly to the life of the Province and the mission of the Institute. She was actively and faithfully involved in our schools. She loved children, and their love for her was equally strong. You could always count on her faithful presence for liturgical and social parish functions. In the local convent, she was a strong presence, trying always to make improvements whether it was in her capacity or not. ... Sister Dolores loved the excitement of new ventures which led her to readily accept new assignments both in South Carolina and New Mexico. ... Sister Dolores' contributions during her years in active ministry will never be forgotten even though she spent these final nine years at Villa Walsh, facing the challenges of ill health. Sister Dolores continued to be a source of affection and support visiting and enjoying the other infirm Sisters. Her spirit of love and faith and her gift of song remain among those who shared these final years with her. While her song of praise no longer fills Trinity Chapel, there is no doubt that she has already joined the heavenly chorus. Sister Dolores, rest in peace."*