



# Born to New Life

## Sister Domenica Troina, MPF



Sister Domenica Troina, MPF passed away peacefully on May 12, 2025, the Feast of St. Lucy Filippini, at Capital Health Medical Center, Hopewell, New Jersey. She was 93 years of age.

The youngest of eight children, Sister Domenica was born on January 23, 1932, in Nutley, New Jersey, and was raised in a large and loving family. Sister Domenica entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1954, received the habit in 1955 and made her religious profession in 1958. She studied Elementary Education, earning a BS from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In her 69 years of religious life, Sister Domenica ministered as a dedicated classroom teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal, and Religious Education Coordinator. She served in the (arch)dioceses of Brooklyn, Hartford, Metuchen, Newark, Paterson, Philadelphia, Scranton, and Trenton. Sister Domenica was also appointed convent superior. Her last ministerial assignment was assisting with the Religious Education Program at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Hamilton, New Jersey. Prior to her passing, Sister Domenica generously offered her services in the convent at Villa Victoria in Ewing, New Jersey, where she resided.

Rev. Monsignor Thomas N. Gervasio, who serves as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia in the Diocese of Trenton and was taught by Sister Domenica in grammar school, offered the Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, May 19, 2025, in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh with seven concelebrants. Following the Liturgy, Sister Domenica's mortal remains were interred at Ave Maria Cemetery on the grounds of Villa Walsh.

In his homily, Monsignor Gervasio, offered these thoughts: *"Our faith assures us that death is not the last word. It is that faith that sustained Sister Domenica throughout her life, from the day of her Baptism 93 years ago, that faith that found fertile soil within her loving family. It is that faith that inspired her to follow the Lord more closely in imitation of St. Lucy Filippini, and it would become an Oblation, that life that was so generously lived for nearly 70 years. ... We should not allow our admiration for Sister Domenica to deprive her of our prayers. Pope Benedict XVI said those who go before us to the other shore never stop needing our love. ... Let us continue our love for her by our prayers, that any sin will be washed away, that all wounds be healed and that she may be purified of all that is not Christ, so that she may soon be greeted by Mother Foundress, on whose Feast Day the Lord called her. May she hear the joyous welcome of our Savior, the Savior she sought to serve so well. 'Veni, Sponsa Christi. Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come, for see, the winter is past and gone, the flowers have appeared in our land. The time for singing has come.'"*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy remarked, *"This is my first and enduring memory of Sister Domenica: As a young, inexperienced postulant, I was beginning my first assignment at Holy Rosary, Jersey City. Sister Domenica, then a second-year novice and nearly ten years older, was very sensitive to my need for protection, support, and understanding. She took me under her wing that entire year, always attentive to my needs and my inclusion in both a vigorous convent of twelve and a very large school. There is no doubt that my vocation was protected because she cared so kindly for me. This marked the beginning of my lifelong respect and esteem for Sister Domenica. It has never faded. ... 'Love' best summarizes Sister Domenica's life. From her love of God flowed her love for the family she was born into, her deep love of this community that became her new family, her tireless devotion to our Mission, and her special love and care for the people she served, especially children. It was 'love' that made Sister Domenica the person she was and the person who gathers us today, allowing us to express our love one more time! May Sister Domenica reap the heavenly rewards of her beautiful life."*