



Born to New Life

Sister Dolores Toscano, MPF



Sister Dolores Toscano, MPF, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at St. Joseph Hall, Villa Walsh, Morristown, NJ. She was 99 years of age.

A native of Jersey City, New Jersey, Sister Dolores entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1940. She received the habit in 1944 and professed her Perpetual Oblation in 1947. Sister Dolores earned her B.S. in Elementary Education from the College of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station, New Jersey. Throughout her many years in ministry,

Sister Dolores made ongoing formation a priority. She attended numerous conferences and workshops. After teaching for 38 years, Sister Dolores shifted her focus from the young to the young-at-heart. She attended workshops on Gerontology and received Pastoral Training for Ministry with the Elderly. In November 2016, at the conclusion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Bishop James F. Checchio of Metuchen presented Sister Dolores with the *Disciple of Mercy Award* to give recognition to the Lord's "steadfast love and mercy" (Psalm 103:4) operating regularly in her life, a life which served as a beacon of hope to others. In her 81 years of religious life, Sister Dolores served as classroom teacher, catechist, Director for Retired Sisters, and pastoral minister. She faithfully served in the (arch)dioceses of Arlington, Baltimore, Bridgeport, Hartford, Metuchen, Newark, and Trenton. In addition, Sister Dolores was appointed local convent Superior. In 2023, Sister Dolores returned to the motherhouse, Villa Walsh, and a few months later took up residence in St. Joseph Hall. She remained active, interested and engaged with others up to the time of her passing.

The Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop Emeritus of Paterson, was the principal celebrant of the Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Dolores. The Mass was offered in St. Lucy Chapel, Villa Walsh on Thursday, November 20, 2025. Her body was laid to rest in Ave Maria Cemetery at Villa Walsh.

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, in her letter of sympathy to the Sisters of the Province of St. Lucy wrote, *"Sister Dolores started her first Mission as a teacher. She treasured this fruitful part of her Mission, which often gets lost because of the enthusiasm she exerted in her pastoral work. Wherever she was missioned, she left an indelible mark: a strong presence with an energetic spirit. A woman blessed with so many gifts: a teacher, a catechist, pastoral minister, sewer, cook, baker, and even more, she used these gifts as an expression of her love for the Mission entrusted to her and her love for the Community and the people she served. What I most appreciated about Sister Dolores was the inclusiveness of her generosity. Everyone was included: Her Bishop, Superiors, the residents she visited at Saint Joseph Hall every week for so many years, and those she saw daily in the nursing homes in Saint Ann's Raritan. Everyone was treated with the same devotion, attentiveness, and joy. She delighted in bringing happiness to others, and as a true Italian at heart, sharing food was one way to express this joy. ... With grateful hearts, let us together pray that Sister Dolores may have a place at Heaven's banquet table, where she may enjoy the fruits of her labor."*

In her tribute, Sister Barbara O'Kane, a good friend of Sister Dolores, reflected on the love Sister Dolores had for the Three Wise Men who traveled far, and with great determination, to bring their gifts to Jesus, the newborn King of the Jews. Sister Barbara concluded her tribute with these words, *"They are grouped together as the 'Three Wise Men' and their individual names are sometimes unknown or hard to remember. Sister Dolores was one of a kind, unique. We are honored to have a saint among us and to know her. Her name and her life will never be forgotten. She not only gave homage to Jesus throughout her 81 years in religious life and ministry, but she brought countless others to do so, too. And just as the Wise Men were blessed by Jesus so now Jesus blesses Sister Dolores for her perseverance, dedication, faith, hope, love, and selfless service in His name, and in the work of saving souls. She loved the Three Kings. Now she can rest in the loving presence of Jesus, the King of Kings, forever."*