

Sr. Mary Hugh Black, OSF Professed 1954

"The more love you give away, the more you will have." John O'Donohue



Sister Mary Hugh Black, OSF, 94, died in Assisi House on June 21. Catherine Bridget Black was born in Philadelphia and grew up in a loving family of 12 children. She entered the congregation in 1952, and professed her first vows in 1954. Mary Hugh ministered primarily in education as teacher and principal on both elementary and secondary levels. Her ministry took her to the Dioceses of Philadelphia, Allentown, and Wilmington.

Mary Hugh had a great love for community. She enjoyed the company of the sisters with whom she lived as well as times when she was able to gather with the broader community. One sister with whom she had lived described her as "the most community-minded sister I know." One of her favorite ways of demonstrating her care for the sisters with whom she lived was doing all she could to care for the local convent. "She cleaned day and night," the sister explained with a laugh. And although serious about both her life as a Franciscan sister, her ministry, and contributing in multiple ways of helping her local community, Mary Hugh also liked to make people smile—often by sharing a joke or two with them.

Looking back over her own life as a Franciscan sister, Mary Hugh once explained that being a Franciscan meant being thankful for all of God's gifts: life, faith, family, friends, and the gift of her vocation. "It is through my vocation that I have come to appreciate and cherish God's many gifts." Poet John O'Donohue wrote, *"If you send out goodness from yourself or if you share that which is happy or good within you, it will all come back to you multiplied ten thousand times. In the kingdom of love there is no competition; there is no possessiveness or control. The more love you give away, the more you will have."* One of your gifts, Mary Hugh, was "giving away" the fruit—the essence of you God-given gifts, whether that be to the students you taught, to your family, or the sisters with whom you shared life. Rest now in the "kingdom of love" with the God who has been the source of your lifelong gift-giving.

*Mass of Christian Burial Thursday, June 25 at 11 A.M. at Assisi House,
followed by burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*