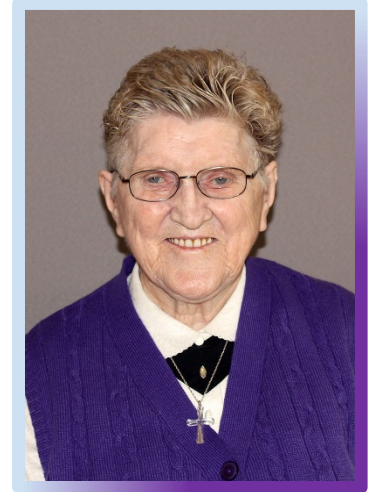


Sr. Mary Breen, OSF

Professed 1952



“Grace is the permanent climate of divine kindness; the perennial infusion of springtime into the winter of bleakness.” John O’Donohue



Sr. Mary Breen, OSF, (formerly Sr. Patrick Mary), 86, died in Assisi House, on November 24. Born in Knockeenadullane, County Cork, Ireland, she entered the congregation in 1949 along with her sister, Sr. Stella Mary Breen, and professed her first vows in 1952. Mary ministered primarily in food services and as a licensed practical nurse. These ministries took her to the Dioceses of Washington, DC; Wilmington; Philadelphia; Baker; and Seattle as well as to her native Ireland. Many sisters who entered between 1957-1961 remember Mary as the “quiet sister” on the OLA food services team!

Mary’s ministry as an LPN was remembered because of her willingness for doing extra nice things for her patients, including praying and blessing each of them. She also prepared equipment and supplies for patient care. Mary was empathetic and caring as she listened to patients. She went quietly about creating community and in doing so, brought heart and soul to the St. Anthony Hospital community in Pendleton, Oregon. Similarly in Tacoma, she brought kindness and patience to the sisters at St. Ann Convent and was always willing to pitch in if either a nurse or cook was absent. Mary was also involved in raising a generous amount of money for financial projects. An avid supporter of the Seattle Seahawks, she especially liked quarterback, Russell Wilson.

When Mary moved to Assisi House, she made friends quickly, explaining that she was there to take care of and to be with her sister, Stella. Once there she learned how to crochet and made scarves which she gave to sisters and staff alike.

The last week of Mary’s life was truly an experience of the Kingdom of God fully alive. In every instance, the care and dedication of the staff was evident. Sisters gathered to pray, sing, laugh, and cry—and Mary herself participated until her last day. Her room was permeated with the Spirit of Peace, Joy, Goodness, Patience, and Love. And surrounded by these gifts of the Spirit—gifts that she herself shared so generously and beautifully with those with whom she lived and ministered—Mary slipped quietly home to her God. As with her life, Mary managed to infuse a spirit of kindness and peace into the dying process, giving credence to John O’Donohue’s words, *“Grace is the permanent climate of divine kindness; the perennial infusion of springtime into the winter of bleakness.”*

*Prayer Service, Assisi House, 9:30 A.M., Tuesday, December 3, 2019
followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. Burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*