



Sr. Anne Dorice DeFebbo, OSF Professed 1972

"Once the soul awakens, the search begins and you can never go back. From then on, you are inflamed with a special longing that will never again let you linger in the lowlands of complacency and partial fulfillment. The eternal makes you urgent." John O'Donohue



Sister Anne Dorice DeFebbo, OSF, died in Assisi House on May 18, a few days before her 73rd birthday. Born in Steubenville, Ohio, she grew up in Weirton, West Virginia. Anne entered the congregation in 1969 and professed her first vows in 1972. She ministered primarily in healthcare as well as in pastoral, parish, and social service ministries in the Dioceses of Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore as well as in Antigua and the Dominican Republic.

To know Anne Dorice was to recognize that she was a born storyteller. Who, once having heard it, could forget her tale of arriving at the Philly airport at night, calling the Glen to see who could pick her up, getting cut off, asking a stranger for money to remake the call, and eventually getting a ride and overnight accommodations from sisters at a nearby convent? Or one might recall her description of working for a summer with migrants at a chicken farm in downstate Delaware and her efforts to see that conditions affecting the workers' health were remedied.

In more recent years, Anne's work in the congregation's pastoral service office reflected her many years in healthcare—especially in assisting sisters to understand their changing health needs. Sometimes she addressed these needs through an article in *Community News*. Other times, particularly in instances when a sister might be preparing for surgery, Anne offered to accompany her to the doctor's visit, making sure that the upcoming procedure was understood. Reviewing Anne's life and ministry, one realizes that whether she was overseeing a nursing unit, serving those whose needs were not being met, or looking out for the needs of her sisters, she acted with determination, with care, and with a sense of humor. Poet John O'Donohue wrote, "Once the soul awakens, the search begins and you can never go back. From then on, you are inflamed with a special longing that will never again let you linger in the lowlands of complacency and partial fulfillment. The eternal makes you urgent." Anne, your life has led you to the God who has overseen your life with the same interest and love that you have shown to those for whom you served. Rest now in the God who is Love!



Services at Assisi House, Wednesday, May 20 - Private