

Sr. Emily Ann Herbes, OSF *Professed 1957*



Sister Emily Ann Herbes died in Assisi House on October 14. Born in Portland, Oregon, the young Emily Ann and her family moved to Pendleton. It was here at age five that she first met the Sisters of St. Francis. By seventh grade she began to question, “Maybe I could be one of them.” Once she entered the congregation, her heart was fully determined to live the Franciscan spirit that she had admired in her teachers. Her own ministries in education, social services, parish ministry, and congregational ministry were evidence of her desire to live out her Franciscan calling.

Sisters who lived and ministered with Emily Ann over the years remember her as being very gracious and talented. “She was always ready to help anyone who needed assistance,” one sister recalled. Another sister described Emily as “always welcoming...she always greeted people with a big smile.”

Two of Emily Ann’s great loves were literature and music. As for sharing her own musical gifts, she often played the piano during liturgical services and was gifted with a beautiful singing voice. Her love of literature may well have been a tremendous aid in carrying out her work as congregational historian. When the congregation published Sister Adele Francis Gorman’s congregational history, *Celebrating the Journey*, Emily Ann served as the primary editor.

In her own quiet way, Emily Ann was also a “risk taker.” In her golden jubilee reflection, Emily Ann reiterated her gratitude to congregational leaders for having been allowed to participate in experimental ministries. She cited particularly “ministering to the poor in downtown Portland” and her experience in living at Anawim—a small experimental house where sisters lived “with and like those who are poor.” As she remarked later, these experiences “changed and deepened my Franciscan commitment.”

Poet John O’Donohue wrote, “To have true integrity, poise, and courage is to be attuned to the silent and invisible nature within you.” Emily Ann, your life and your service to others reflect a blend of your innate sense of poise, your courage in stepping out of the quiet realm of all that is “safe” and “secure,” and your ongoing sharing of the Franciscan spirit that first called you to religious life. Rest now with the loving and gentle God who called you to share the gift that you were created to be to all whom you encountered during your life.



*All services will be held in Assisi House, 600 Red Hill Road,
Aston, Pennsylvania, 19014 on Tuesday, October 20,
and will be private.
Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Aston.*

