

Sister Marie Cecilia Irwin, OSF *Professed 1951*

“The sacred duty of being an individual is to gradually learn how to live so as to awaken the eternal within you.” John O’Donohue

Sister Marie Cecilia Irwin, OSF, 89, died in Assisi House on August 17. She had been professed for 69 years—much of which were spent ministering in health care. Her years in ministry took Marie Cecilia to the Dioceses of Allentown, Baltimore, Trenton, and Philadelphia. She was well known in the medical field and was acknowledged as an excellent administrator. She was respected by patients and employees alike and known for her goodness to people and her support of those whose physical needs are sometimes overlooked such as the “Little People.” Over the years she was honored on various occasions for her achievements in healthcare.



Sisters who lived with Marie Cecilia described her as being sweet and loving. Within the local house, she was always on hand—ready to participate in whatever event or activity was in progress. She was also a great seamstress. That gift was often employed in making beautiful quilts that she donated to children.

When Marie Cecilia made her golden jubilee in 2001, she shared a reflection during the liturgy. She spoke about the stages of our lives—the “motherhood” stage of “bearing God to others” and the “grandmother” stage of being the “person who has time for you and gives you something.” She explained that we need to see ourselves as “enough” and concluded by saying “I guess the ‘now’ is the most important time for me in religious life. I enjoy ‘being Marie’—the grandmother—able to make time for others and give them something.” Would that we could all learn and embrace that reality!

Poet John O’Donohue wrote “The sacred duty of being an individual is to gradually learn how to live so as to awaken the eternal within you.” Marie, throughout your life you not only recognized the eternal within you but carefully and humbly shared it with those whom you served and with whom you lived. Live now in joy and peace and love with the God of all Eternity!

All services will be held in Assisi House on Tuesday, August 25, and will be private. Internment of Ashes will be followed by burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Aston.

