



Sr. Regina Lanahan, OSF Professed 1955

“The call to the creative life is a call to dignity, to a life of vulnerability and adventure, and the call to a life that exquisite excitement and, indeed, ecstasy will often visit.” John O’Donohue

Sr. Regina Lanahan, OSF, (formerly Sr. William Mary), 87, died in Assisi House on November 27. Regina entered the congregation in 1953 and was professed in 1955. She ministered primarily in healthcare as a nurse, nursing supervisor, nursing instructor, and administrator and received various awards for her work in healthcare. She also served in congregational ministry as provincial of the former St. Joseph Province. Her years in ministry took Regina to the Dioceses of Harrisburg, Allentown, Wilmington, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. In later years, she ministered with Franciscan Health System as special projects manager.



Sr. Regina possessed an innate sense of vision—a gift which she utilized in both the medical field and in congregational leadership. At St. Francis Hospital, for example, her gifts were respected by staff, local physicians, and patients. When she prepared to leave the hospital to assume her new position as provincial, she received a letter and Delaware State Senate Resolution acknowledging her contributions to the hospital, patients, and state citizens. That same vision guided her in her terms as provincial. For example, she began holding semi-annual regional meetings as a way to enhance two-way communication. In a diocese with over 500 sisters, she recognized the need to delegate visitation duties to council members. For the 1977 Provincial Chapter, all sisters—delegates and nondelegates—were invited to be part of the discussion. It was also during Regina’s term as provincial that sisters requesting a change in ministry were encouraged to submit their own applications for available positions and go for interviews.

During Regina’s years at Assisi House, she faced illness with courage and continued to serve in whatever way she could. For example, selling raffle tickets provided quite a project. From her years in healthcare, she knew a **lot** of people and made sure to contact all of them with both letters AND tickets. She also wrote Christmas letters to both family and friends and in these letters shared past and current experiences. She shared sections of her 2018 letter as a reflection for a *Community News* issue earlier this year—another example of her desire to give of herself.

Sr. Regina, poet John O’Donohue reminded us of what truly living life means when he said, *“The call to the creative life is a call to dignity, to a life of vulnerability and adventure, and the call to a life that exquisite excitement and, indeed, ecstasy will often visit.”* Regina, you have lived your life in the call to serve others—in healthcare, in congregational ministry, in prayer and hospitality. You have shown us how to face adventure and how to be vulnerable. May you live now in God’s eternal love and in that ecstasy that call heaven!



*Prayer Service, Assisi House, 9:30 A.M., Thursday, December 5, 2019
followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. Burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

