



Sr. Annette Marie Lucchese, OSF *Professed 1962*

*“Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning that is at one
with your life’s desire.” John O’Donohue*

Sister Annette Marie Lucchese, OSF, died at home in Ringwood, New Jersey, on June 13. She was born in Brooklyn, New York, and entered the Franciscan Sisters of Ringwood in 1960. Annette’s ministries took her to the Dioceses of Paterson and Brooklyn, and, after our merger, to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Her ministries spanned areas from elementary education to directing a retreat center, to congregational leadership—of two different congregations!



Annette was, prior to the merger of our two congregations, a “mover”—looking to the future and, through her encouraging ways, working to take others on the journey with her. One sister described Annette as a “joyful person who encouraged others to move ahead ...but always gently...with time...in a joyful way.” An article from *The Beacon*, around the time of our merger reflects Annette’s willingness to move ahead into a somewhat unknown future. “It is wonderful and frightening to be at this place of new beginnings,” she said. “Your many gestures of love and support have overwhelmed and delighted us. We move forward with you in joyful hope knowing that all will be well.”

Annette was also a welcoming person whether she was welcoming people from OLA to Ringwood or greeting new arrivals to OLA. One sister who had recently moved from the west coast during Annette’s term of leadership recalled that Annette actually sought her out after her arrival from the west. “She was so friendly,” the sister recalled. “She said that she actually made it a point to welcome people. Then she told me that she just wanted to touch base with me.”

In his poem “For a New Beginning,” John O’Donohue urges us to “Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning that is at one with your life’s desire.” Annette, during your life your response to God’s grace and God’s gifts has enabled you to “unfurl yourself” to various new beginnings. You are now at the beginning that has no end—the beginning of a life in the sweet embrace of the God who simply IS! Rejoice in this God of Everlasting Love!

*A viewing will be held on June 16 from 4-7 P.M. at the D’Agostino Funeral Home, 881 Ringwood Avenue in Haskell, New Jersey. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, June 17 at 12 noon at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 868 Ringwood Avenue, Haskell, New Jersey.
Burial will follow in God’s Acre Cemetery in Ringwood.*

