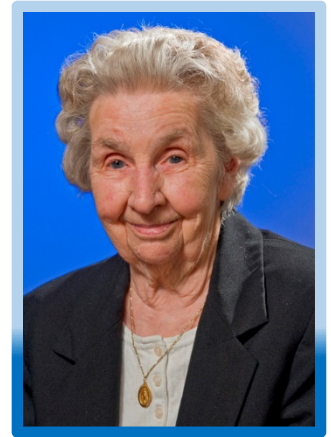




Sr. James Frances McGlashen, OSF Professed 1944

*"I would love to live like a river flows,
carried by the surprise of its own unfolding." John O'Donohue*



Sr. James Frances McGlashen, OSF, died in Assisi House on January 8, just 10 days before her 101st birthday. Josephine Marie McGlashen was born in Philadelphia where she was a member of St. Anne Parish and a graduate of Hallahan High School. There she first met the Franciscan sisters. In an article written about her 100th birthday, she recalled that she admired the sisters and felt called to enter the Franciscans—although her aunts were Sisters of St. Joseph. She entered the congregation in 1941 and was professed in 1944. Her early years in ministry were spent in education, primarily as a business teacher. She recalled teaching the regular business subjects but also spent time helping her students obtain good jobs after graduation. A number of those students continued to keep in touch over the years. One young woman later married and moved to Wisconsin but maintained contact via phone. For a number of years, she had Sr. James Frances and her friend, Sr. Ave Regina, flown to Wisconsin for a visit.

Sr. James Frances (lovingly known as Jody to her many friends), also spent a number of years as a caregiver for her sister. During those years she began her day at 4:30 A.M. and spent her first few hours tending to her sister's needs. She then headed off to All Saints School to volunteer in the office. Her 50+ years in business education provided a huge assist to faculty and staff. By 11:30 she was headed back home where she prepared lunch, continued looking after her sister's needs, and handled routine household chores.

Her later years in active ministry took Sr. James Frances to St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne where she volunteered in the medical records department. Again her skills in business matters provided a huge assist to the staff. Shortly before her 100th birthday, she moved to Assisi House and many of her friends were on hand to help celebrate. Asked how it felt to be 100, she replied, "When I was born, I was christened right away because they thought I might not live long—and here I am." When asked how she liked living at Assisi House, James replied, "I love it here. They can't be nicer...I have a lot of friends." To this her close friend, Sr. Dolores Donovan, replied, "She is a friend to many. She is a top-notch person. She could take care of the world."

Poet John O'Donohue once wrote, "I would love to live like a river flows, carried by the surprise of its own unfolding." Sr. James Frances, your life did, indeed, flow like a river, enriching the lives of many as your gifts and your goodness touched their lives. Enjoy and treasure your "unfolding" into the presence of the God you so lovingly served!

*Prayer Service, Assisi House, 9:30 A.M., Wednesday, January 15
followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. Burial in Our Lady of
Angels Cemetery.*

