



## *Sister Ann Miller, OSF Professed 1951*

*“One of the most beautiful gifts in the world is the gift of encouragement. When someone encourages you, that person helps you over a threshold you might otherwise never have crossed on your own.” John O’Donohue*

Sister Anne Miller, OSF (formerly Sister Mary William) 90, died in Assisi House on July 1. Anne was born in Philadelphia and entered the congregation in 1948. She ministered primarily in education on elementary, secondary, and university levels. Anne was always willing to spend extra time with students who “didn’t get it” quite as easily as she did. Some sisters recalled a summer school Latin class at the motherhouse. Anne was told to focus on translations because the sisters shouldn’t need to review grammar. Reality proved otherwise! Anne offered a special “lunch break” review gathering for those who needed a refresher course. Still another sister recalled needing only three credits in Latin to finish her degree. Anne tutored her for three hours every Saturday for an entire semester.

Anne was a wonderful storyteller and shared her stories with both students and community members. She loved to relive her silver jubilee trip to the Holy Land and enjoyed relating the story of the siege of Masada in great detail. Her memory was incredible and listeners felt as though they were actually present. Many sisters also remember stories about her family, especially stories about her nieces and nephews. Sisters visiting Anne in Assisi House knew that their visit meant seeing up-to-date photos of the little ones in her family.

One sister who lived with Anne for a number of years described her experience of building community. “Each year was like a new beginning in my relationship with her and the other sisters,” she explained. “As Anne began to share her beliefs, opinions, family stories, and sense of humor, we became part of her Franciscan family. We were at home and at peace with each other, growing because of our willingness to be honest and to be who we were. There was no competition—only support of our ministries and personalities.” She also recalled the fact that Anne made friends with some parishioners simply by asking, “How are you today?” One gentleman sat near Anne at daily Mass. He had tattoos his arms, chains on his neck, and stood about six feet tall. Anne chatted with him each day. This very gentle man so appreciated the person she was that he sought her out with all kinds of questions. When he learned of her death, he simply stated that she was his friend.

Poet John O’Donohue wrote, “One of the most beautiful gifts in the world is the gift of encouragement. When someone encourages you, that person helps you over a threshold you might otherwise never have crossed on your own.” Anne, your efforts to encourage those who enjoyed your tutelage helped them to believe in themselves. May you rest now in the awareness that you, too, have crossed the threshold of life into Life Eternal with the God who is All Goodness.

*Prayer Service at Assisi House, 9:30 A.M., Wednesday, July 15, 2020 will be private.  
Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. Burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

