

Sr. Maria Angelita Ortiz, OSF

Professed 1957



*"May you enter each day with a
generous heart to serve the call of
courage and love."*

John O'Donohue



Sister Maria Angelita Ortiz, 88, died in Assisi House on April 10. Lucia Esther Ortiz was born in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico, and was a graduate of Academia Monseñor Willinger High School. She entered the congregation in 1954 and was professed in 1957. Angelita's 66 years of service in education and parish ministry took her to the Dioceses of Philadelphia and Allentown as well as back to her beloved Puerto Rico. There she served in teaching, catechetical work, pastoral services, and also ministered as formation director.

Angelita was very close to her family. When they came to visit, she looked forward to introducing them to the sisters with whom she lived and to sharing news about the accomplishments of her many nieces and nephews.

Angelita enjoyed sewing and could often be found working at her sewing machine. When she was preparing to move to Assisi House, one of her biggest concerns was what would happen to this sewing machine. She fluctuated between sending it to her niece in Puerto Rico and donating it to someone closer at hand. When it came down to the final decision, however, she announced that she was taking it with her. Asked what she planned to do with it at Assisi House, Angelita stated that she could mend clothes for the sisters who resided there.

Sisters who had lived with Angelita cited other examples of her generosity. One sister, for example, recalled that she often sent chalices or other sacred vessels to poor parishes in Puerto Rico. Another sister, learning of Angelita's death, wrote, "She was very caring, giving, and supportive toward her sisters in community. She was also quick to find ways to help a family in need."

Poet John O'Donohue wrote, "May you enter each day with a generous heart to serve the call of courage and love." Angelita, your generous heart led you throughout life to serve the needs of those whom you encountered in the varied aspects of your life. May you rest now in the love of the God whose people you served so willingly.



*All services at Assisi House on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 are private.
Burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

