

Sister William Margaret Romen, OSF

Professed 1963

“May I live this day compassionate of heart, clear in word, gracious in awareness, courageous in thought, generous in love.” John O’Donohue

Sr. William Margaret Romen, OSF, died in Assisi House Queen of Peace Convent on January 20. Born Barbara Anne Romen in Philadelphia, she graduated from West Catholic High School. Prior to her entrance she lived in Bryn Mawr. William Margaret ministered primarily in elementary education and eldercare, ministries which took her to the Dioceses of Trenton, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia. During the past 34 years, she served as part of the support staff at Assisi House.



William Margaret was what might be described as a “gifting person.” She herself was gifted when it came to skills like knitting and crocheting. The “fruits” of her giftedness became “gifts” for others—the shawls she made for her mother, the hats she made for the sisters at Assisi House—and for their families if requested. Another example of her “gifting” nature was evident in the packets of all-occasion cards she compiled and gave to the sisters at Assisi House. If a sister needed one for a special occasion, William Margaret went out of her way to find it. One of William’s “chores” at Assisi House was making sure that the residents had what they needed in the way of toiletry articles like soap and shampoo. And sisters recuperating at Assisi House recall that they were also apt to have her mobile cart stop outside their room—just making sure that their needs were met!

William Margaret was an enthusiastic Phillies fan. A 2008 edition of the *Delaware County Times* carried an article and a fantastic photo about William Margaret watching her favorite team “clinch the National League East title.” Her good friend, our deceased Sr. Helen St. Paul, apparently preferred old movies but gave in to William’s sports enthusiasm. The article quotes William saying, “She teases me that she knows what being a football widow is like.”

William Margaret gave of herself to students also and many remember her fondly. A former student from Lancaster and his family fondly refer to her as “Grandmom” and treated her to a trip to Florida—a gift she thoroughly enjoyed!

Poet John O’Donohue wrote, “*May I live this day compassionate of heart, clear in word, gracious in awareness, courageous in thought, generous in love.*” William Margaret, your compassionate heart intuited the needs of others and saw that they were met. You shared your many gifts and brightened hearts with your warm smile and infectious chuckle. Rest now in the loving and generous heart of the God whom you so willingly served.

***Prayer Service, Assisi House, 9:30 A.M., Monday, January 27, 2020
followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. Burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.***

