



Sister Agnes Borkowski, OSF Professed 1949

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

John O'Donohue

Sister Agnes Borkowski (formerly Sister Walter Josephine), OSF, died in St. Joseph Hospital in Baltimore on May 25. She was born in Baltimore and entered the congregation in 1946. During her 72 years in the congregation, Agnes' ministry took her to the dioceses of Trenton, Allentown, Philadelphia, and Fall River and eventually back to her native Baltimore. Over the years she served in education, child care, and health care.



During her years in education, Agnes loved working with students. But regardless of her ministry, she gave her all to whatever she undertook—always willing to assist in whatever project was ongoing. That same willingness applied to community living as well. Sisters who knew her described Agnes as a generous, friendly woman who was also involved in congregational functions and always willing to assist in whatever project was ongoing.

In addition to her characteristic willingness to help in whatever project or ministry she undertook, Agnes was a woman who was able to enjoy life and the lighter moments with which life gifted her. She viewed herself as a woman who was energetic, who was always interested in learning about people, places, and new ideas. This ongoing interest was reflected in the activities she enjoyed: reading, sewing, and working with puzzles.

Agnes once wrote that being a member of a religious congregation had been a lifelong dream. She found her way to living that dream during her childhood when she met the Franciscan sisters at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. “They seemed to me to be happy serving God,” she recalled, “and that’s what I wanted.” 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.” Agnes, in your efforts to carry out your ministry to serve others, your ongoing involvement in congregational matters, and your willingness to investigate “newness,” you have, indeed, lived a life of compassion, clarity, graciousness, generosity, and involvement. Rest now in the love of your God!

All services will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 8501 Loch Raven Blvd., Towson, Maryland, on Wednesday, June 2. Viewing will be 9:45-10:30 A.M. followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 A.M. Internment of Ashes will follow at Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Baltimore.

