



## *Sister Margaret Mary Lewis, OSF* *Professed 1949*

*"We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart,  
and to bring home those who have lost their way."*

St. Francis of Assisi



Sister Margaret Mary Lewis, formerly Sister John Therese, spent her long life sharing her knowledge and helping to heal countless others. Sister Margaret entered the eternal loving embrace of God on December 31, 2021. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 72 years.

Sister Margaret grew up in Philadelphia with her brothers, John and Thomas, and attended West Catholic Girls High School. She sought and attained excellence in her education, as well as in her lifelong ministry. After earning her undergraduate degree in science from Villanova University, she advanced her depth of knowledge through a master's degree in education from Trenton State College, a doctorate in medical technology from the Catholic University of America, and certification as a medical technologist and clinical microbiologist.

Sister Margaret in turn helped countless students by ministering as a clinical laboratory supervisor and medical technology program director at St. Francis Hospital in Trenton, New Jersey, and St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware. For 13 years, she served as a professor and program director for Neumann University's Clinical Laboratory Sciences program, which she designed. As further guides for students and professionals in her field, she authored a textbook on clinical parasitology and several journal articles.

Early in her ministry, Sister Margaret taught at St. Bernadette School, in Silver Spring, Maryland. Later, she administered the tuition payment program at the Shrine of the Little Flower School, Baltimore, and coordinated donor development for the Catholic High School of Baltimore. Reflecting her determination and ceaseless commitment to students, she served at age 90 as a receptionist for the Neumann University Office of the President and as a volunteer with the university's institutional advancement office. In addition to serving students, Sister Margaret contributed profoundly to the health and wellbeing of countless patients through her decade as vice president of St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington.

In 1995, in appreciation for her innumerable contributions, Neumann College created the annual Sister Margaret Lewis Award for Excellence in Clinical Laboratory Science. Then in 2007, Neumann awarded Sister Margaret an honorary Doctor of Letters. Among her numerous other awards were being named Outstanding Medical Technology Educator and earning the Pennsylvania Medical Society Benjamin Rush Award for Outstanding Medical Service.

Sister Margaret turned even her own health challenges into an opportunity to help others. In a 2019 *National Catholic Reporter* article by Elizabeth Eisenstadt Evans, Sister Margaret is quoted as saying about her own many years with cancer, "The best remedy for pain is not feeling sorry for yourself." She brought her experience and compassion to her ministry as a patient visitor at the Towson, Maryland, Cancer Institute—which she had helped to open—and at Riddle Memorial Hospital in Media, Pennsylvania, and as a pastoral associate at St. Joseph Hospital in Towson.

When she was not ministering in health care and education, Sister Margaret added to the world's beauty and joy by creating embroidered afghans, wreaths, and decorative bows. Reflecting on her life, Sister Margaret wrote, "Over the years I have learned that sacrifice in my life as a sister of St. Francis is truly no sacrifice at all. With determination and faith, there is no night so dark that the dawn of Christ's Resurrection will not break open and reveal God's ever-present love for me, giving me the ability to endure whatever it takes to fulfill my role in God's eternal plan."

Throughout her decades as a sister of St. Francis, Sister Margaret Mary Lewis profoundly proved her faith and determination, her "full commitment to doing not just my best but my utmost." All who have been touched by Sister Margaret's wisdom, healing, and example are deeply grateful for the gift of her life.

*Private services, with livestreaming available, will be held at Assisi House on Thursday, January 6, 2022.*

*A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. Mass of Christian Burial  
will follow at 11 A.M., with burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

