



Sister Clare Agnes Conforti, OSF

Professed 1956

Love God, serve God, everything is in that.
St. Clare of Assisi



Throughout her lifetime of serving and uplifting others, Sister Clare Agnes Conforti unfailingly loved and served God. Sister Clare Agnes, who died in Assisi House on March 29, 2022, was born Jeanette Conforti in Brooklyn, New York. There she was a member of St. Francis of Paola Parish and graduated from Grover Cleveland High School.

Sister Clare Agnes entered the Franciscan Sisters of Ringwood in 1955 and became a sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia when the two congregations merged in 2003. Preparing for her ministry in education and her pastoral and retreat ministry, Sister Clare Agnes earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Seton Hall University and a master's degree in religion and religious education from Fordham University. She was certified both as a social worker and as a spiritual director.

Sister Clare Agnes ministered in education for more than three decades. For schools in Ringwood and Haskell, New Jersey, and in Brooklyn, New York, she taught students from first to eighth grade. Sister Clare Agnes also used her own education, classroom experience, and Franciscan wisdom in serving as the principal of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Passaic, New Jersey, and Queen of Peace School in Hewitt, New Jersey. She was loved by her students, and many kept in touch with her even decades later.

Among her countless contributions, Sister Clare Agnes was an administrator for the Franciscan Sisters of Ringwood. In addition, for 10 years, she coordinated Ringwood's St. Francis Retreat Center. Then during her years in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, she was a volunteer for the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston and for Our Lady of Angels Convent. Since 2016, she served in prayer and hospitality ministry at Assisi House, participated with the Aston Franciscan Companions in Faith, and continued to give and receive pleasure from her interests in crafts, music, cooking, and reading.

Looking back over her life as a sister of St. Francis, Sister Clare Agnes shared, "My life has been filled with all that I would never have been blessed with if I had not become a Franciscan sister. Being a sister of St. Francis has given me the opportunity to grow in my relationship with God and others. It has afforded the fulfillment of a desire to serve the poor, to work with children, and to walk a spiritual journey with others. My heart is filled with the joy which so many shared with me. God has given me so many gifts. I am grateful for each day in my life."

Sister Maggie Lopez, for whom Sister Clare Agnes served as ongoing formation director between first and final profession, describes her as greatly loved, deeply prayerful and spiritual, and extraordinarily dedicated to others. Sister Maggie continues, "She was a joy to know—kind, compassionate, considerate, and interested in others' stories and lives."

Sister Mary Rita Paratore and Sister Clare Agnes Conforti were close friends ever since both joined the Ringwood congregation in 1955. Sister Rita speaks with love and appreciation of her friend's warmth, upbeat personality, and ready sense of humor. She adds that Sister Clare Agnes "was helpful to everyone and would do anything to help, no matter how tired she was. She always had a smile and would lift you up and make you feel good."

Asked how she would like others to see her life, Sister Clare Agnes said, "I make efforts to bring joy to others. I would like others to experience the love of God through my kindness and prayerful life." Those for whom she ministered and all others who knew her are deeply blessed that Sister Clare Agnes Conforti has been a part of their lives—loving and serving them as she loved and served God.

All services will be held at Assisi House on Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

Viewing will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. The services will be livestreamed.

Burial will be in God's Acre Cemetery, Ringwood, New Jersey, at noon on Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

