



Sister Carmel Grice, OSF *Professed 1954*

"Give your hands to serve, and your hearts to love."
Mother Teresa



After a lifetime of serving others with joy, devotion, and love, Sister Carmel Grice died on April 6, 2022. Sister Carmel grew up with her four sisters and three brothers in Dublin, Ireland, where she and her family were members of Holy Child Parish in Larkhill, Dublin. As Sister Marie Perpetua, she entered the Sisters of St. Francis in Mallow, County Cork, Ireland, in 1951.

From her early responsibilities as a captain for the Catholic Girl Guides in Ireland and on through her long and meaningful ministry as a sister of St. Francis, Sister Carmel embraced others' needs, bringing deep caring and capability. Her ministry unfailingly reflected the depth and breadth of her gifts, all shared for the wellbeing of everyone.

Sister Carmel used her notable leadership and office skills, for example, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Doylestown, where for 19 years she served as a secretary. She also served in the office at McCorristin High School in Trenton. For St. Joseph Hospital in Towson, Maryland, and St. Francis Orphanage in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, she ministered in dining services and as a chaplain. For many years, she served as assistant to the house treasurer for Our Lady of Angels Convent, where she likewise used her talents as a seamstress. Further reflecting her broad abilities was her ministry for St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, where she was the executive director of housekeeping, and for St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton, where she was an EKG supervisor.

Among her many interests, Sister Carmel enjoyed knitting and jigsaw puzzles. Whatever she was doing, she embraced life with energy, talent, and a generous spirit. Among her great pleasures was driving other sisters to their appointments and visits with family and friends—as she said, “wherever they wanted to go.” She eagerly drove even long distances, and the families of her passengers quickly became her own friends. Outgoing and personable, she similarly became friends with many she met in chance encounters, first asking them to write their names and saying to these new acquaintances, “I’m going to be putting your name in the prayer book.” Focusing on the needs and intentions of others, Sister Carmel’s prayer life reflected the same generous love and enthusiasm she showed in all her ministry.

Sister Carmel was abidingly compassionate, capable, confident, and ready to embrace life’s difficulties. Her loving service included being a devoted caregiver for her mother—even taking care of her mother’s home and yard—and for other family members. Sister Jude Seaman speaks of her friend Sister Carmel as “always comforting” and unfazed by challenges. As Sister Jude recalls, “She was wonderful. She wasn’t a nurse, but you would have wanted her to take care of you.”

On hearing of Sister Carmel’s passing, one of her countless admirers wrote, “What a sense of humor she had! At 92 she was still sharp as a tack. I loved her sweet, sly little smile.” A former colleague shared, “I loved Sister Carmel! She was always giving me what for when I taught at OLMC in Doylestown. May she rejoice in heaven with the angels and saints.” All who knew Sister Carmel Grice rejoice that she has been a part of their lives. The world holds a greater measure of joy because of her life—the beauty of her spirit and the countless gifts of loving care and serving that she has given.

*All services will be held in Assisi House on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, and will be livestreamed.
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.*

