



Sister Kathleen Mary Winkelman, OSF

Professed 1956

"A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows."

St. Francis of Assisi



After a lifetime of bringing light and joy to others, Sister Kathleen Mary Winkelman died on April 18, 2022. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 66 years. Sister Kathleen and her brother, Louis, grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, where she was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish. Her mother loved the Franciscan sisters, and this love led to Sister Kathleen's own calling to become a sister of St. Francis—and, as she said, to "live the life of Franciscan joy."

Sister Kathleen entered the congregation in 1954 and professed her first vows in 1956. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Mount St. Mary's College and her master's degree in religious studies from Saint Michael's College. She ministered primarily in elementary education and in religious education for children and adults.

In the Diocese of Trenton, Sister Kathleen taught at St. Michael's Orphanage in Hopewell. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, she taught at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Doylestown, St. Bartholomew School in Brockton, and Our Lady of Consolation Parish School in Philadelphia. Sister Kathleen taught at Nativity School in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and then served the Archdiocese of Baltimore for 15 years as a teacher at St. Elizabeth School and Shrine of Little Flower School and as director of religious education for St. Ursula Parish in Parkville.

For 10 years beginning in 1978, Sister Kathleen served the Diocese of Venice, Florida, as the director of religious education for St. Ann Parish in Naples. Then for almost 20 years, she ministered in the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware, as a director of religious education on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, serving the congregations of St. Mary Refuge of Sinners in Cambridge, St. Mary Star of the Sea in Church Creek, and St. Dennis in Galena. Her ministry on the Eastern Shore included promoting lay leadership within the Church. Sister Kathleen believed, "We all have a call to serve as Jesus did. To live that out is to minister to others."

Returning to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Sister Kathleen volunteered at Our Lady of Angels Convent. Since 2019, she served in prayer and hospitality ministry in Assisi House, where she lived at the time of her death.

Sister Theresa Kevin Donahue speaks of Sister Kathleen as a true Franciscan sister—prayerful, compassionate, caring—and as "a friend who blessed my life by being in it." In addition to describing Sister Kathleen's warm, ready smile and friendly nature, Sister Constance Davis speaks with pleasure about the homemade pickles that Sister Kathleen made, following a family recipe, and shared with other sisters and friends. Sister Kathleen Donovan writes, "Kathleen was a generous, loving woman. She shared her talents and expertise." Another of her admirers adds, "Sister Kathleen always tried to make others happy. She had a great sense of humor with a loving and kind heart."

Asked to consider how others saw her, Sister Kathleen said, "I have been told that I am a great listener. God blessed me to be ready to 'be for others,' to be ready to help as others are in need, always a Franciscan at heart." All those who knew her agree. The world holds a greater measure of light because of her life—the beauty of her spirit and the countless gifts of loving care and serving she has given.

*All services will be held in Assisi House on Monday, April 25, and will be livestreamed.
A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 A.M.
Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

