



Sister Anna Louise Aherne, OSF

Professed 1950

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



After a lifetime of loving and serving God, Sister Anna Louise Aherne (formerly Sister William Anne) entered God's eternal loving embrace on June 14, 2022. She was born in the picturesque town of Cobh, Ireland. Anna Louise Mary Aherne and her parents—Annie and William—and seven siblings were members of St. Mary Parish in Mallow, Ireland. Before entering the Sisters of St. Francis in Mallow in July 1946—a month before her 16th birthday—Anna Louise attended a technical school near her home. Later she earned a bachelor's degree in history and English from Our Lady of Angels College.

Sister Anna Louise professed her first vows in 1950 in Our Lady of Angels Chapel and was a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 72 years. During that time, she returned to Ireland for a year beginning in September 1972, entering the Monastery of the Poor Clares in Ennis, County Clare. She was deeply devoted to her family and in 2014 again returned to Ireland, this time for two years of ministering as a caregiver for her brother. While there, she supported her town and neighbors, as well as her family. *The Avondhu*, a local newspaper, published an appreciative account of her blessing and words of support at the dedication of a new defibrillator for the village of Glanworth.

During most of her life as a sister of St. Francis, Sister Anna Louise served in education and prayer ministry in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In all she did, she was, as Sister Mary Annette Griffin describes her, “a lovely lady.” News of Sister Anna Louise's passing brought dozens of messages of appreciation for her service and kindness. She began her teaching ministry in the Diocese of Trenton, serving a total of 20 years in the diocese's St. Anthony, Blessed Sacrament, Corpus Christi, and St. Leo the Great Schools. In addition to her three years at St. Joseph School in the Diocese of Harrisburg and year at Blessed Sacrament School in the Diocese of Allentown, Sister Anna Louise ministered for 44 years in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. She taught at St. Mary of Assumption School in Philadelphia, served in administration at St. Mary Home in Bryn Mawr, and served many years in prayer ministry in Our Lady of Angels Convent and in Assisi House, her home since 2016.

Through her faith, wisdom, dedication, and Franciscan heart, Sister Anna Louise Aherne loved and served countless young people and adults—beautifully expressing her full and meaningful life of love and service to God.

All services will be held at Assisi House on Friday, June 17, 2022.
Viewing will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M.
These services will be livestreamed. Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.

