



Sister Nadine Rose Bennett, OSF *Professed 1944*

"The more love you give away, the more you will have." – John O'Donohue



Sister Nadine Rose Bennett, OSF, passed away at her home in Assisi House on July 21, 2022, after a long life of ministering with love, kindness, and caring. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 78 years. As Sister Agnes St. Rose, she entered the congregation in September 1941 and went on to serve countless children and adults through her ministries in education, home care, administration, transportation, and prayer.

While she was growing up, Nadine Rose, her parents—Agnes and Claude—and her five brothers and five sisters lived in Baker City, Oregon. Nadine attended St. Joseph Academy in nearby Pendleton. In 1954, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in education from Holy Names College, in Spokane, Washington.

Sister Nadine began her ministry with the Sisters of St. Francis by helping children in St. Joseph Home in Spokane. Then in her classroom ministry, she taught for much of four decades in Catholic elementary schools in Washington, Oregon, and California.

Her service in the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, also included establishing and coordinating the Franciscan Renewal Center, as well as serving as principal of Blessed Sacrament School. While she was principal, Sister Nadine oversaw the first combining of two Catholic schools into a single school. Because of her skillful leadership in this initiative, she was asked to oversee a similar joining of two Catholic schools in San Diego, where she served for two years as vice principal of Our Lady of Guadalupe School.

At age 60, Sister Nadine began her 15-year ministry in the healthcare field, including serving in home, elder, and hospice care through St. Joseph Hospital, Tacoma. She was, in fact, St. Joseph's first home-health nurses' aide. Speaking of her hospice ministry, she said, "I feel privileged to be God's instrument in this wonderful work."

Beginning in the 1990s, and with a similarly generous spirit, Sister Nadine was a driver in Tacoma for sisters at both Olympus House and St. Ann Convent, where she would also serve in prayer ministry. From 2018 until her death, Sister Nadine ministered in hospitality and prayer in Assisi House.

In 2020, Sister Nadine shared that "One day, after a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, I felt such a peace come over me and assurance that I was where God wanted me." Further reflecting on her experiences in the congregation, she said, "As a sister of St. Francis, I have matured with the many challenges and opportunities offered—spiritually and emotionally—and grown in appreciation of my sisters in our Franciscan community, learning from their example of prayerfulness and commitment. My faith and trust in God have grown as I have endeavored to live out my commitment."

In addition to her ministries, Sister Nadine enjoyed nature, fishing, classical music, reading, and watching sports. Her friend Sister Jude Connelly speaks of Sister Nadine's joyful "fish tales," love of the Seattle Mariners, and thrill at having her picture taken with retired Mariners catcher Dan Wilson. Sister Jude also speaks fondly of Sister Nadine's pride in her hometown of Baker City, her sense of humor, her deep love of life, and the outpouring of love and appreciation that Sister Nadine earned from her many home-care patients.

Asked to consider how others viewed her, Sister Nadine acknowledged that she was "quiet and caring, enjoyed outdoor activities, loved to do for others, enjoyed humor, and was reflective and peaceful." Her mottos were, "Where there is a will, there is a way," and "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well." All who knew Sister Nadine Rose Bennett are deeply blessed by the love she so generously felt and shared and by the determination and unshakable Franciscan charism she brought to her ministries and life.

All services will be held at Assisi House on Wednesday, July 27, 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 Calvary Cemetery, Tacoma, Washington.

