



Sister Susan Dentz, OSF

Professed 1953

"We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions."

Pope Francis



Sister Susan Dentz, OSF, (formerly Sister Marie Mercedes) loved the Franciscan traditions and charism, which she embraced and lived with wisdom, enthusiasm, and devotion. Sister Susan entered the eternal loving embrace of God on Thursday, September 22, 2022. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 69 years.

Growing up in the Baltimore area with her parents, Edward and Sophia, and her siblings, Barbara and Edward, Sister Susan graduated from The Catholic High School of Baltimore and was a member of St. Rita Parish in Dundalk, Maryland. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in August 1950. Sister Susan earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education—with social studies as her major field—from Villanova University, a master's degree in educational administration from The Catholic University of America, and a master's degree in Christian spirituality from Creighton University. Using this extensive preparation and her many gifts, she ministered in education, parish and retreat ministry, and prayer.

Sister Susan began her ministry as a teacher in Philadelphia's All Saints School. She went on to serve for 24 years as a classroom teacher, music teacher, and principal for schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, both in the city and in surrounding communities, including Marcus Hook, Aston, and Doylestown. In 1977, she began her parish ministry as the director of adult spirituality for Philadelphia's Our Mother of Consolation Parish. Also in the archdiocese, she led retreats for Kimberton's St. Basil the Great Parish and for the San Damiano Center at the motherhouse. Beginning in 1990, Sister Susan directed retreats for the San Alfonso Retreat House in Trenton, New Jersey. And from 1998 until 2013, she ministered in retreat work at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, Pennsylvania. Sister Susan then served in local house ministry for Queen of Peace Convent. From 2016 until her death, she lived in Assisi House and served there in prayer and hospitality ministry.

Outside of her ministries, Sister Susan loved to read—especially historical biographies—and enjoyed life's gifts such as friends and family, music, and good food. Above all, she spoke of how blessed she felt to be a sister of St. Francis.

News of Sister Susan's passing has brought heartfelt tributes from friends and admirers. They speak of her creativity, her wonderful ability to encourage and inspire others, and "all the good she brought into our world." As one friend writes, "Sister Susan lived her life fully and many people are closer to God through her many ministries. She was a delightful person to know." The world is blessed that Sister Susan Dentz lived and shared her faith in her classrooms and retreats, throughout each of her ministries, and in all of her beautiful, Gospel-centered life.

All services will be held at Assisi House on Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

A Christian Wake Service will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M.

These services will be livestreamed. Interment of Ashes will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.

