



Sister Mary Louise Heinle, OSF *Professed 1949*

*"One cannot educate without love. You cannot teach words without gestures,
and the first gesture is the caress: to caress hearts, caress souls."*

Pope Francis



Sister Mary Louise Heinle (formerly Sister Kathleen Joseph) was an educator who caressed the hearts and souls of her students through her quiet spirit, love, and caring. Sister Mary Louise entered the eternal loving embrace of God on September 5, 2022. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 73 years.

Sister Mary Louise grew up in Baltimore's St. Elizabeth Parish with her parents, Daniel Joseph and Kathryn; her brothers, Daniel and John; and her sister, Margaret. She was a graduate of The Catholic High School of Baltimore and earned her bachelor's degree in education from Villanova University. Sister Mary Louise went on to minister as a teacher for elementary and high-school students in Philadelphia, Trenton, and Allentown. She instructed and encouraged generations of students in her many classrooms.

During her 62 years in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, she used her classroom experience, her Franciscan charism, and her innate caring and warmth to guide students in their academic journey. She began her teaching in elementary education at St. Benedict School in Philadelphia; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School, Media; and St. Francis School, Bryn Mawr. Her focus then shifted to secondary education. She spent 25 years teaching mathematics, science, and religious studies at St. Maria Goretti High School. She also taught math for five years each at John W. Hallahan High School and St. Hubert High School and spent nine years teaching at Shrine of the Little Flower High School, all in Philadelphia. Sister Ave Regina Boos, who worked with Sister Mary Louise at St. Hubert High School, remembers her as "a quiet but good friend." Sister Kathleen Donovan adds, "What a lovely woman! She had a beautiful smile and a generous heart." Many who knew her remember her as a "good and faithful daughter of God" whose dedication and service to children have earned her reward resting in the arms of the Lord.

Writing about her life as a sister of St. Francis, Sister Mary Louise called herself a "faithful Franciscan" and added, "I'm grateful and happy for my Franciscan way of life. I enjoyed teaching and helping the students. I loved all of my assignments and am thankful for the wonderful sisters I lived with." In her free time at Assisi House, Sister Mary Louise enjoyed reading and working on the daily crossword puzzle.

Asked to reflect on her gifts, Sister Mary Louise wrote, "I'm a patient, grateful, and compassionate person. During my years as a sister, I've grown in faith and developed a deep devotion to St. Francis." Her niece Donna shared, "Aunt Mary Louise is with her parents and her siblings; they are all together again." Indeed, Sister Mary Louise, you have educated countless hearts and minds with your wisdom and your love, and you have truly earned your reward in Heaven. May the angels guide you in paradise.

Private services, with livestreaming available, will be held at Assisi House on Friday, September 9, 2022.

*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.*

