



Sister Dorothy Elizabeth Real, OSF

Professed 1959

*"May you have the eyes to see
That no visitor arrives without a gift
And no guest leaves without a blessing." John O'Donohue*



Sister Dorothy Elizabeth Real (formerly Sister Patricia), or Trish as she was lovingly known throughout the congregation, shared her gifts with all those blessed to know her. Sister Dorothy entered the eternal loving embrace of God on October 19, 2022. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 63 years.

Sister Dorothy grew up in Baltimore's St. Anthony Parish with her parents, George and Dorothy, and her three sisters, Peggy (her twin), Joan, and Kathy. Sister Dorothy was a graduate of The Catholic High School of Baltimore and earned her bachelor's degree in English from Neumann University (then Our Lady of Angels College). She was widely recognized as an excellent kindergarten and first grade teacher. Sister Donna Desien noted one reason for this excellence: "She had lots of practice" because her sister Joan had 10 children, Peggy had six, and Kathy had four. A gift to her family and congregation alike, Sister Dorothy herself recalled, "I have a great love for very young children, and I am grateful for all these [teaching] experiences."

Sister Dorothy and her gift of teaching are surely remembered in the many hearts she touched during her decades ministering in education. She ministered for several years in the South and very much enjoyed the missions and the sisters she lived with there. "It is a joy to think back on all those happy times," Sister Dorothy wrote recently. "While living in the South, we didn't get to travel north much," said Sister Noreen Buttimer, who lived during that era with Sister Dorothy. "We would gather for holidays and special occasions with sisters in other convents nearby. Sister Dorothy loved getting together with the larger community. We had many good times."

Sister Dorothy spent 17 years in the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina, where she taught at St. Paul School in Spartanburg, Our Lady of Peace School in North Augusta, and St. Joseph School in Anderson. Sister Deanna Bartolomei lived with Trish in North Augusta and remembers her as "a very devoted teacher with a great sense of humor and a creative mind." Sister Dorothy ministered for 15 years in the Diocese of Mobile, Alabama, at Most Pure Heart of Mary School, where she served first as a teacher and later as a volunteer. She also taught for two years in the Diocese of Pensacola at St. Thomas More School in Warrington. In the Diocese of Orlando, at St. Brendan Parish in Ormond Beach, she served in parish ministry and as the director of religious education.

In the Mid-Atlantic, Sister Dorothy ministered for 12 years in the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware, where she taught at Corpus Christi School, St. John the Beloved School, and All Saints Catholic School. She also spent four years in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., teaching at Nativity School. Sister Dorothy had a wonderful relationship with her family, and ministering in Wilmington and Washington gave her more opportunities to spend time with them. Sister Donna Desien recalls, "Trish was especially close to her twin sister, Peggy. Being from Baltimore, Sister Dorothy loved soft-shell crabs, so during crab season her brother-in-law Frank (Peggy's husband) always made her some. They tried to get me to eat them and laughed at the faces I made."

When asked to describe herself, Sister Dorothy wrote, "People told me I was easy to get along with. I always cooperated with what was expected of me, but I wasn't afraid to speak my mind when necessary. I feel people respected that." In 2015, she moved to Assisi House in Aston, Pennsylvania, where she enjoyed puzzles and needlework and served in prayer and hospitality until her death.

Through all those she served and everyone who had the blessing of knowing her, Sister Dorothy's quiet encouragement, caring heart, and wonderful spirit will continue to spread in the world.

*All services will be held at Assisi House on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, and will be livestreamed.
Viewing will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M.
Interment of Ashes will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*