



## *Sister Alphonsus Moran, OSF* *Professed 1959*

*"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. Life's most persistent and urgent question is:  
What are you doing for others?" – Martin Luther King, Jr.*



**S**ister Alphonsus Moran, OSF, loved reading, crocheting, and knitting, but her greatest love was caring for others and serving God in the best way she knew how. Sister Alphonsus passed away in Assisi House on November 29, 2022. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 63 years.

In her early years, Mary Agnes Moran, her parents—John and Mary—and her three brothers and three sisters lived and worshipped in Glenamoy Ballina, County Mayo, Ireland. She moved to the states and worked for some years as a nanny before she entered the community—living with a family in Boston. She entered the congregation in 1957 and professed her first vows in 1959 taking the name Alphonsus. Sister Alphonsus once wrote, "I felt called to the congregation because I had a cousin in the order and heard from her that this community was the best if I really wanted to be a sister." Religious life was a joy to Sister Alphonsus as she once wrote, "I am grateful to God to be called to this wonderful community . . . I have never been unhappy here."

Throughout her decades as a Sister of St. Francis, Sister Alphonsus brought her wonderful innate gifts to a variety of ministries in support and service roles—roles that she said she was "blessed for the opportunity to serve."

Sister Alphonsus began her ministry life by serving God's youngest treasures at St. Michael's Children's Home in Hopewell, New Jersey, where she would serve in the nursery and accompany the children in their day-to-day lives. One task she recalled fondly was escorting the babies from the nursery to their therapy appointments. Joan Prendergast, a companion and former member, remembers Sister Alphonsus from her time at St. Michael's, "I got to know Sister Alphonsus a bit at St. Michael's. She was a wonderful sister. Later, every time I would visit Assisi House, Sister Alphonsus would recognize me and say 'I know you from working at the nursery'." Sister Rose Christopher Sheridan echoed that sentiment and said of her friend, "She had a pleasant personality and a wide smile to greet you. She would ask about your family if she had met them and tell you she would pray for them." Sister Alphonsus continued her ministry in the Diocese of Trenton at Morris Hall in Lawrenceville, shifting her gifts from the youngest of God's children to the eldest—serving in the dining room and in elder care.

In 1973 Sister Alphonsus returned to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, where she ministered throughout the rest of her life. She lovingly served in local house ministry and for the priest department at Our Lady of Angels Convent and as a nurse's aide at Assisi House for 42 years. She was the epitome of hospitality when serving the resident chaplain and visiting priests at OLA. She did everything from their laundry to preparing and serving meals in their private dining quarters. Since 2015, Sister Alphonsus served in prayer and hospitality ministry in Assisi House.

Sister Alphonsus was known as sort of the matriarch of her set (the group of sisters who entered together in 1959). Sister Elaine Spangler said of Alphonsus, "She was very special to everyone. She was always concerned about getting our set together to gather whenever possible. She was just a very generous, caring, and friendly person." Sister Rose agreed stating, "Sr. Alphonsus was a unique personality! She was willing to help out anywhere, she worked hard at what she had to do and was usually quite cheerful about it."

Through all those she served and everyone who had the blessing of knowing her, Sister Alphonsus Moran's quiet joy and unending kindness will continue to spread in the world.

*All services will be held at Assisi House on Friday, December 2, 2022, and will be livestreamed.*

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

*Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

