



Sister Mary Dominic Piscotta, OSF

Professed 1953

"Educating is an act of love." Pope Francis





After a spirit-filled life of educating children in nearly countless classrooms and serving all she met with love, Sister Mary Dominic Piscotta passed away at Assisi House on November 6, 2022. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 69 years.

Sister Dominic was born Palma Piscotta in Jersey City, New Jersey, across the Hudson River from Manhattan. She and her parents, James and Mary, and her siblings attended Jersey City's Holy Rosary Church, the oldest Italian Catholic church in New Jersey. Sister Dominic graduated from her hometown's William Dickinson High School and later earned a Bachelor of Arts in early childhood education from Seton Hall University.

In 1951, Sister Dominic entered the Franciscan Sisters of Ringwood; she professed her first vows in 1953. Sister Dominic ministered devotedly in education, clerical duties, and prayer. For more than 50 years, she served as a teacher for students in New York's Diocese of Brooklyn and in New Jersey's Diocese of Paterson and Archdiocese of Newark. During her 10 years at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Passaic, New Jersey, along with serving as a classroom teacher, Sister Dominic led the school as its principal. She completed her teaching ministry by returning to her hometown, Jersey City, where, after teaching for seven years at St. Aloysius Elementary Academy, she served the school for an additional seven years as a clerical assistant and volunteer. Beginning in 2013, Sister Dominic ministered as a volunteer for Trenton's St. Francis Medical Center. Then in 2016, she moved to Assisi House, where she served in prayer ministry until her death.

In 2021, as Sister Dominic celebrated 70 years since entering the congregation, an admirer wrote, "Remembering the retreats you took me on so many years ago helps me to serve our Lord each new day, as you have—bringing the light of Jesus Christ our Lord into this world." Reflecting on her years of knowing Sister Dominic, Sister Theresa Firenze shares, "Sister Dominic loved her family and her Franciscan sisters! She had a sense of humor and put herself into whatever she was doing. I never lived with her but enjoyed when we gathered. She was a good teacher and diligent worker." Sister Ann David Strohming adds that Sister Dominic was "always a cheerful greeter," and other friends and admirers echo these reflections, speaking of her warmth, wit, and strength of character.

Sister Mary Dominic Piscotta gave of her love through the lessons and example she shared with generations of students and all whose lives she touched, leading and inspiring through her kindness, prayers, wisdom, and example. The world holds a greater measure of goodness because of her life—the beauty of her spirit and the limitless gifts of caring and serving she has given.



*All services will be held at Assisi House on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, and will be livestreamed.
A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. Mass of Christian Burial
will follow at 11 A.M., with burial on Thursday, November 10, in God's Acre Cemetery, Ringwood.*