

Sister Anne Conrad Koerner, OSF

Professed 1949

"Beauty calls us beyond ourselves and it encourages us to engage the dream that dwells in the soul." John O'Donohue



Sister Anne Conrad Koerner engaged in a life of beauty through her love for God, her congregation, and for all whom she ministered and lived with. Sister Anne Conrad passed away at her home in Assisi House on November 30, 2022, after 73 years as a professed Sister of St. Francis.

While she was growing up, Sister Anne (then Carmelia Marie), her parents—Conrad Joseph and Anna—her brother Conrad, Jr. and sisters, Angela and Dorothy, lived in Baltimore, Maryland and attended St. Elizabeth Parish. After graduating from The Catholic High School of Baltimore, Carmelia entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in 1947 and professed her first vows in 1949. Sister Anne Conrad earned a B.S. in Pharmacy from Fordham University and graduated top of her class. During her early years in the congregation, she ministered in elementary education but after becoming a registered pharmacist, she ministered in healthcare.

Sister Anne Conrad began her ministry life as a teacher at All Saints School and St. Alphonsus School, both in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and at St. Vincent's School in Baltimore. Then in 1955, she herself became a student at Fordham University in the Bronx, New York, where she prepared for her healthcare ministry. That ministry began at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, where she served in her first role as a pharmacist for 15 years. At St. Francis Hospital in Trenton, New Jersey, she continued to minister in the pharmacy department for seven years. She then spent an additional 17 years at St. Joseph Hospital in Lancaster before returning to her home state of Maryland and serving at St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson—where she served in the special care department and as a pastoral associate for the remainder of her healthcare career. Beginning in 2010, she moved to Assisi House where she served in prayer and hospitality until her death.

Sister Mary Theresa Coll went to high school with Sister Anne Conrad and remembers her as “a very bright student. She was secretary of her senior class and always made honor roll.” Sister Mary also lived with Sister Anne and remembers her as “a very quiet individual but wonderful to live with.” Sister Eileen Hennessey who worked with Sister Anne in the hospital system agrees stating that, “Sister Anne did a beautiful job in the pharmacy. She worked on her own and was very involved with her work, so she was often quiet and reserved, but she was lovely.” Once retired and living at Assisi House Sister Anne Conrad remained her quiet and spiritual self and enjoyed doing puzzles and reading in her free time—both of which challenged her mind.

Reflecting on her life in the congregation, Sister Anne Conrad wrote, “I am grateful for the call to follow the Franciscan way of life. The journey has been a daily process of learning to know and love God in a deeper way through the people with whom I have lived and to whom I ministered.”

Asked to consider her gifts, she acknowledged, “Others know me as a quiet, gentle, prayerful person and a loyal, faithful member of our community.” Sister Ida Marie Nicklas agrees, and remembers Sister Anne as a “gentle, soft-spoken sister who enjoyed spending time with her fellow sisters. She loved to sit and talk with her sisters and has been a gracious soul from the very first day I met her.” Sister Anne Conrad Koerner, all who have had the blessing of knowing you are deeply grateful for you. Thank you for the endless ways in which you showed kindness, goodness, humility to your God.

*All services will be held at Assisi House on Wednesday, December 7, and will be livestreamed.
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. Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*