



## *Sr. Anne Mancini, OSF* *Professed 1953*

*"When you follow in the path of your father, you learn to walk like him."*  
*African Proverb*

Sister Anne Mancini, OSF, (formerly Sr. Marie Francelle), 93, died in Assisi House on February 9. She was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to John and Anna Mancini—one of five children. There she was a member of St. Edmond Parish. She entered the congregation in 1951 and professed her first vows in 1953. Anne would have been celebrating her Diamond Jubilee (70th) this year. Her years in ministry were primarily spent in education and pastoral services and took her to the Dioceses of Baltimore, Wilmington, Raleigh, and ultimately Philadelphia. However, a highlight of Sister Anne's ministry was the time she spent in Africa and in the Dominican Republic.



Anne was a colorful and vibrant soul; a free spirit with an open heart who easily related with people. She had a great appreciation and affinity for the marginalized in society—especially our African brothers and sisters. When the congregation sent sisters to Africa in the 1970s, Sister Anne was delighted to go. "Although she didn't master the language, her warmth and openness allowed people to respond to her," said Sister Mary Killoran. Having to return from Africa abruptly due to illness—after 15 years of ministry there—she never got a chance to say a proper goodbye to her friends. This is something that often bothered her. However, the impact she made on those around her and the warmth she shared was sure to have left a message of love in their hearts. Back in the states, she continued to minister to and with the African American population for most of her life and wants to be remembered as, "A person who tried to love and serve all people equally and who dedicated her life's work to the advancement and equality of the Black race."

Sisters often describe Anne as a funny and talkative person. Sister Elise Betz, who lived with Sister Anne in Wilmington, Delaware, said of her friend, "She could talk to a stone. She loved taking walks around the neighborhood and just talking to anyone she came across." Sister Anne once referenced the following quote to describe herself, "I did try to LOVE those I met with Joy," and followed it with, "All I can say is that I have tried to live a Franciscan life in a simple and joyful manner inclusive of all people."

Sister Anne enjoyed many hobbies including photography, reading and writing poetry, puzzle solving, and making new greeting cards by recycling old ones. She was also very interested in global events and kept up with what was happening in the world around her.

Angela Pelullo Spegal, a relative of Sister Anne's wrote, "She was the most spiritual, sweetest person you will ever want to know. Through her years of service, she had a profound positive impact in the lives of thousands of children throughout the world. I am sure the choirs of angels greeted her and lead her into her eternal home." Like the African proverb, "When you follow in the path of your father, you learn to walk like him," Sister Anne followed in the footsteps of our Lord and lived her life as best she could by his example. May you rest now with the God of all blessings—at peace and secure in that Godly Love that knows no bounds!

*All services will be held at Assisi House on Thursday, February 16, 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 in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

