



Sister Elizabeth Ellen Kane, OSF

Professed 1962

"The believer's job is to shine out Christ in their living and in their speaking." Henry Hon



Throughout her lifetime of serving and uplifting others, Sister Elizabeth Ellen (Betty) Kane unfailingly loved and served God. Sister Betty (formerly Sister Paul Anthony) who died in Assisi House on March 17, 2023, was born in Baltimore, Maryland. There she was a member of St. Elizabeth Parish and graduated from The Catholic High School of Baltimore. Sister Betty entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in 1959 and professed her first vows in 1962. Preparing for her ministry in education and in pastoral and parish ministry, Sister Betty earned a bachelor's degree in English from Neumann University (then Our Lady of Angels College) and a master's degree in liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame.

Sister Betty followed in her sister, Patricia's, footsteps in entering the congregation upon graduating high school. In sharing about her vocation, the outgoing and loving, Sister Betty reflected that she was fortunate enough to have been taught by the Sisters of St. Francis in both elementary and high school where many sisters were her teachers and mentors. "It's no wonder so many people loved her," Sister Patricia said of her sister, "Betty was always so affable! In fact, I used to say Betty could talk to a stone and it would probably answer her."

Sister Betty began her life as a sister in education, where she taught at Holy Angels School in Newark, Delaware; Immaculate Conception School in Towson, Maryland; and Nativity of Our Lord Jesus School in Washington, D.C. After a decade of teaching, Sister Betty was asked by the provincial to do vocation ministry. When her tenure was complete, she began doing parish and pastoral ministry. Cindy Baumgartner, a former parishioner commented on Facebook, "As the facilitator for my RCIA class, Sister Betty had a huge impact on my conversion to Catholicism. She was always kind and patient with my many questions. She will always hold a special place in my heart."

Among her countless contributions to the congregation, Sister Betty served as director of Evangelical Life Services for 15 years. In this role, she kept the sisters up-to-date on legislative efforts around the country through various Catholic and other social services agencies. She also held prayer services and worked with the JPIC Committee on many justice and peace issues. Anyone who knew Betty knew of her love of animals, especially dogs. Her work with the Canine Partners for Life training canines for service work and serving as a "temporary puppy home" was something she took great pride in. In a *Good News* article about this ministry, Sister Betty said, "Of course, I adore being with these wonderful animals but the real gift is that these dogs are providing quality of life to people in need of assistance." Offering love and care to others—human or animal—was truly at the essence of who Sister Betty was. Sister Ann Marie Slavin, who knew Sister Betty well, said of her friend, "In other words, Betty always saw life as connecting with, loving, and enjoying all of God's creation."

Looking back over her life as a sister of St. Francis, Sister Betty shared, "Being a Sister of St. Francis allowed me to be in relationship with others as sister and to serve and love others freely—hopefully reflective of God's free love." Sister Betty loved to play board and card games and to read. She also had a beautiful singing voice and would often cantor at congregational and parish liturgies. Since 2019, she has served in prayer and hospitality ministry at Assisi House.

Asked how she would like others to see her life, Sister Betty said, "I am grateful for all the people in my life and hope I will be remembered as a kind and wonderful person." Those for whom she ministered and all others who knew her are deeply blessed that Sister Betty Kane has been a part of their lives—a true believer who helped the light of Christ shine into their lives.

All services will be held at Assisi House on Thursday, March 23, 2023.

Viewing will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. The services will be livestreamed.

Burial will follow in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.

