



Sister Assunta Prunty, OSF Professed 1954

*“May you take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention.
May you be consoled in the secret symmetry of your soul.*

May you experience each day as a sacred gift, woven around the heart of wonder.” John O’Donohue



After a lifetime of quiet, prayerful presence to God’s children, Sister Assunta Prunty, 95, died in St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, on April 16, 2023. Assunta was born Ellen (Evelyn) Frances, one of ten children born to Thomas and Anne in County Longford, Ireland. Her family were members of St. Mary Parish in Newtown Forbes. Sister Assunta entered the congregation in 1951 and professed her first vows in 1954. She earned a BA in English from Neumann University (then Our Lady of Angels College). She ministered primarily in elementary education and pastoral care. Her longtime friend, Sister Bernadette McGoldrick (Bernie) entered from Ireland at the same time as Assunta and remembers her friend as, “A real caretaker. She was 24 when she entered, much older than the rest of us on the boat. She was like a mother to us at that time. She was always looking out to help people where she could.”

Sister Assunta began her ministry in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia teaching elementary school for 22 years. She taught at St. Stanislaus School, Lansdale; All Saints School and St. Alphonsus School, Philadelphia; Resurrection School, Chester; and St. Ignatius School, Yardley. On the West Coast, she taught at St. Charles School and Holy Trinity School in Spokane and at St. Margaret School in Riverton, Wyoming. Sister Assunta ministered for 12 years in the Allentown Diocese at St. Joseph Medical Center in Reading as both a chaplain and spiritual aide. In the Diocese of Wilmington, Sister Assunta ministered for 17 years with the Ministry of Caring as a volunteer and pastoral visitor. In 2022, she began local house ministry in her convent in Wilmington where she served at the time of her death.

Sister Vicki Della Valle who lived with Sister Assunta said, “I will truly miss Assunta’s quiet presence, her hard work, her delicious cooking (she was a great cook), and her prayerful spirit.” Sister Vicki continued, “Sister Assunta was always working and cleaning. At times she could hardly walk and I would find her cleaning the front door glass or porch railings. We would feed the birds and she would clean up after them.” Sister Bernie agreed, “She always took care of what needed to be done. She was great to live with because you never had to worry about things getting done—she just did them.” A friend on Facebook commented, “I have fond memories of Sister Assunta when I served at St. Francis Hospital. She would send me some of her baked treasures and I was eternally grateful.”

Sister Assunta is also remembered as being a very prayerful person. “She never missed prayers,” Sister Vicki commented. Sister Bernie shared, “I called her the ‘*Woman Wrapped in Silence*’ after the Blessed Mother because she was very private and very prayerful.” Sister Assunta wrote of herself, “The Franciscan life is a Gospel life lived purely and simply. God has called me to a special service of love and sharing. Most of the time that service is evident in my ordinary, everyday life.” Others remember Sister Assunta as a “faithful daughter,” “gentle woman,” and “a kind soul.” Sister Bernie added, “She was also very observant and honest to a fault. She would give you the truth, even if it was hard to hear.” It is very obvious that Sister Assunta will be missed by all who knew her.

Poet John O’Donohue wrote, “Take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention.” Assunta, your life and your service to others reflect a blend of your innate sense of poise, the quiet miracles that arose from your hard work and dedication to all you serve and to your community, and your ongoing sharing of the Franciscan spirit that first called you to religious life. Rest now with the loving and gentle God who called you to share the gift that you were created to be to all whom you encountered during your life.

All services will be held at Our Lady of Angels Convent Chapel on Friday, April 21, and will be livestreamed. A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. followed by viewing.

Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. Burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.

