

Sister Ann Cahill, OSF

Professed 1954

“Holiness is made of dailiness, of living life as it comes to me, not as I insist it be.”

Joan Chittister



Sister Ann Cahill, (formerly Sister Marie Immaculee) died in Assisi House on April 30, 2023. She was 94 years old. Sister Ann was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, one of Louis and Evelyn Cahill’s ten children. The family attended St. Joseph Parish. Ann Bernadette came to know the Franciscans when she attended and graduated from Sacred Heart Academy. Entering the congregation in 1952 and professing her first vows in 1954, she was a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 69 years. Sister Ann earned certification as an accredited medical records technician as well as a nurse’s aide. She ministered primarily in healthcare clerical work. Sister Ann is predeceased by her sister, Sister Evelyn Mary Cahill, who was also a member of the congregation.

Sister Ann ministered for 55 years in the Baker diocese. She faithfully ministered for 47 years at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton, Oregon, where she held many roles over the years—records technician, office worker, switchboard (PBX) operator, admissions specialist, and senior companion in the “Foster Grandparent Program.” She also ministered for six years at St. Joseph Hospital in LaGrande and for two years at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Baker, in clerical positions. Sister Ann Lupita McNamara who lived with Sister Ann shared, “Sister Ann served as a medical records auditor with particular attention to accuracy, confidentiality, and detail—gifts she maintained in her many years in other roles at the hospital.”

While at St. Anthony’s, Sister Ann became known as the “Road-running Nun” after a 1982 article published in the *East Oregonian* which documented how Sister Ann was preparing to compete in her first race and ran 3-5 miles every day of the week, sometimes longer on the weekends. Author Betty Ehlers wrote, “The small, blonde woman, jogging along in her coral and white exercise suit, keeps a steady pace as she heads up the steep Southgate hill.” The article quotes Sister Ann, “I have a very demanding job, when I get off duty, I feel the need to unwind.” Sister Jude Connelly remembers these days well and said, “Ann loved Eastern Oregon and the outdoors very much. She was a committed walker/jogger and at her prime, she walked between 50-60 miles per week. She was well beyond counting steps.” Her love for the outdoors didn’t stop there. Sister Ann also learned to ski and enjoyed several winters skiing in the Blue Mountains with the students at Blue Mountain Community College, often joining in on bus trips to the ski lodge. And what’s more, she was a wonderful dancer. Sister Ann took ballroom dancing lessons and mastered the art of the classical dances. Sister Jude remembers, “She enjoyed dancing, but she loved seeing others dance just as much.”

Sister Ann McNamara remembers her friend as, “An advocate and an inspiration for numerous persons she greeted daily in-person or on the telephone—listening to and supporting patients and their families in times of need. Sister Ann’s life over the years as a Sister of St. Francis has captured the simplicity and hospitality of our Franciscan legacy.” Sister Ann was one who made lifelong friends and was very connected to her family. As much as she loved the Pacific Northwest, she was always very proud to be from Fall River.

Joan Chittister wrote, “Holiness is made of dailiness, of living life as it comes to me, not as I insist it be.” Ann, you lived your best Franciscan life in service to others, as it came to you and as God intended. May you rest now in the love of the God whose people you served so willingly.

*All services will be held in Assisi House on Friday, May 5, and will be livestreamed.
A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 A.M.
Internment of Ashes will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*