



## *Sister Mary Patricia Johnson, OSF Professed 1965*

*“The more love you give away, the more you will have.” John O’Donohue*

After a lifetime of sharing her love of God and her deep Franciscan joy, Sister Mary Patricia Johnson, OSF, 88, (formerly Sister Amata) died in Assisi House on Monday, May 8, 2023. Mary Pat was born in Philadelphia to George and Winifred and had one brother, George William, otherwise known as Bill. The family were members of St. Barnabas Parish and Mary Pat was a graduate of West Catholic High School. After working as a secretary for several years, Mary Pat answered the call to religious life and entered the congregation in 1962, professing her first vows in 1965. She earned a BA in English from Our Lady of Angels College and ministered primarily in education, administration, and parish ministry. While most of her years were spent ministering in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, she also ministered in the dioceses of Allentown and Wilmington.



Sister Mary Pat ministered for 55 years in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. She taught elementary school at St. John Neumann School in Bryn Mawr and St. Benedict School in Philadelphia as well as at Little Flower High School for four years. After her years in education, Sister Mary Pat served as the provincial administrator at the St. Anthony Provincial Residence in Springfield for nine years. She then shifted gears and began working in parish ministry at St. Francis and Epiphany Parishes in Philadelphia. Mary Pat continued to answer God’s call to service as the coordinator of the assisted living program at St. Agnes Medical Center in Philadelphia, as well as in various supportive roles within the congregation and Neumann University. In 2008, she moved to Assisi House where she served in prayer and hospitality ministry until her death. Sister Mary Pat was one of the initial formators of the St. John Neumann Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order and is remembered fondly. Fellow sister, Sister Noreen Buttimer commented, “Mary Pat was a gift to our community. She was kind, decent, friendly, and totally committed to our congregation and way of life. She’s now enjoying the rewards of eternal life!”

Sister Esther Anderson remembers Sister Mary Pat as “a gracious, welcoming person who was present to and interested in the people she encountered in her various ministries. She loved to sing and could harmonize beautifully even when she could no longer carry on a conversation.” Sister Jo Ann McPolin, agrees, “Sister Mary Pat was very musically inclined and loved to dance. She loved a good party. But she was also the most organized, spiritual, present-in-the-moment person with a deep love of her family—the epitome of a lady.” In reflecting on her life as a Sister of St. Francis, Sister Mary Pat once wrote, “I was ‘invited’ by my vocation to live in community—and I owe ‘who’ I am now before God and God’s people to our sisters and my ministries.” Her friend of over 60 years, Sister Clare Christi Schiefer shared, “It was a special gift to be Mary’s friend. She had a refreshing personality. We spent lots of time together and I always left feeling spiritually enriched. There was a mantra that Sister Mary often said, ‘We are always Springtime young in the Lord,’ and if you reflect on that, it is something that gives tremendous hope as we age.” Sister Mary Pat is remembered as a fun-loving, outgoing, and sweet woman—a person who gave all the love in her heart to the service of others, to her community, and to her family. Rest now in the “kingdom of love” with the God who has been the source of your lifelong gift-giving.

***All services will be held at Assisi House on Thursday, May 11, 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.***

