



Sister Marie Juliana Damhosl, OSF *Professed 1955*

"Holiness consists simply in doing God's will and being just what God wants us to be." St. Thérèse de Lisieux

Sister Marie Juliana Damhosl, a sister who gave joy and inspiration to her many students and to all who knew her, went home to God in Assisi House on Sunday, January 21, 2024. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 69 years.



Sister Marie Juliana was born Theresa Caroline Damhosl in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where she was a member of Holy Ghost Parish. She was first taught by the Sisters of St. Francis in elementary school. In her reflection for her Golden Jubilee, Sister Marie Juliana wrote, "I thank God for the gift of my vocation which was planted when I was in second grade and always remained there. He has been watching over me all these years and I thank Him for this." Throughout her life, Sister Marie Juliana had a strong devotion to St. Thérèse of Lisieux, her patron saint. She was also very proud to be from Bethlehem and a member of Holy Ghost Parish. At Christmas, she loved to volunteer at Moravian University's bookstore, wrapping presents and helping people get in the Christmas spirit.

Sister Marie Juliana loved teaching the primary grades. She taught for 40 years in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia at St. Ludwig, St. Benedict, St. Bonaventure, St. Aloysius, and St. Stanislaus schools. She taught for 28 years in the Allentown diocese—27 years at St. Francis of Assisi School and one year at Holy Ghost School. After learning of her passing, many former students and parents of former students wrote messages thanking Sister Marie Juliana for being such a wonderful teacher. Bernadette Fasano wrote, "Thank you for your many years of service and the kindness you showed to my son, spending time tutoring him while at St. Stanislaus in Lansdale. We will always remember you."

Her good friend, Sister Eleanor Joseph Peck, said, "Her heart was always with the children. She had a great sense of humor and was very creative with her lessons." Sister Eleanor also remembered, "Marie Juliana was a joy to live with. She was very prayerful and fun to be around. She was always prepared for any emergency and loved to clean." Sister Marie Juliana combined her creativity, her love of cleaning, and her joy of Christmas by crocheting items for the Foundation's Christmas Craft Fair. She would crochet dusting mitts, cleaning rags, etc. and attach little poems to them about the joy of cleaning.

Sister Marie Juliana's other interests over the years included reading, knitting, embroidering, baking, cooking, and adult coloring books. Reflecting on her life, she wrote, "Volumes could be written about all that has filled my life since the day I walked through the main entrance of Our Lady of Angels Convent in August 1952: joys, sorrows, happiness, sadness, the ups and downs that would be 'steppingstones' in my spiritual journey." She explained, "God blessed me with many good sisters in various convents during my years of teaching. Through their example, I grew spiritually."

Sister Marie Juliana lived her life in service to God's little ones. Her joy, kindness, and life of prayer were an inspiration to all who knew her, and her generosity of spirit will live on through those who knew and loved her.

All Services will be held at Assisi House on Friday, January 26, 2024, and will be livestreamed. A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. followed by viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11 A.M., with burial following in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.

