Sister Veronica Marie Tevis, OSF
Professed 1957

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercifully, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

Sister Veronica Marie Tevis, OSF, loved her life as a sister—a life which she embraced and lived with wisdom, enthusiasm, and devotion. Sister Veronica entered the eternal loving embrace of God on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 67 years.

Born Mary Regina Tevis, she grew up in the Williamstown, Pennsylvania, area with her parents Charles and Veronica, both immigrants from Czechoslovakia, and her four siblings. Upon graduating from Hallahan School in Philadelphia, she entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in August 1955. Sister Veronica earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Villanova University. Using this degree and her many gifts, she ministered primarily in elementary education.

Sister Veronica was a radiant example of faith, service, and unwavering commitment to education. For six decades, she dedicated her life to nurturing the minds and souls of generations of young students in the Philadelphia and Washington, DC areas. Starting in 1962, Sister Veronica taught at various Catholic schools across the Philadelphia archdiocese. She had a special gift for recognizing each student’s unique strengths and nurturing their curiosity. Even after retiring from teaching, Sister Veronica’s commitment to living her faith and serving others remained steadfast when she volunteered for 12 years at St. Mary’s Franciscan Shelter in Phoenixville. Reflecting on her life as a Sister of St. Francis, Sister Veronica once wrote, “The sisters in my community have touched me in many ways—encouraging, supporting, and inspiring me to meet challenges on my journey…and so I continue my journey accepting many changes in my life and counting the many blessings.” Sister Barbara Maureen Thomas said, “Veronica (Ron) and I go way back. She has always been a very loving, fine, and loyal friend. She was always there for me and vice versa. She was a lady all the way down to her fingertips; something I always told her.” Sister Ann David Strohminger shared, “Sister Veronica was a very kind person who always was dedicated to serving the underprivileged and helping people believe in their goodness. She gave of herself in so many ways through conversations and letters and through her presence. I always liked being in her company.”

Outside of her ministries, Sister Veronica loved reading, listening to music, doing art projects, exploring nature, and bird watching. She thought of herself as a gentle, quiet woman as well as a good listener. She once wrote, “I enjoy solitude and peace. I have used my artistic ability in ministry and community in numerous projects.” Her good friend and housemate, Sister Chris Kranichfeld said, “When I met Veronica in 1979, I found a love of nature and the great outdoors, and together we camped and toured 49 of the 50 states. She was the youngest of five children and her mother told me, ‘The last one is the best one.’ I heartfully agree.” While her gentle presence will be deeply missed, her shining legacy of love, friendship, and unwavering faith will continue to inspire all those whose lives she touched.

All services will be held at Assisi House on Friday, March 8, 2024. A Christian Wake Service will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. These services will be livestreamed. Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.