Sister Joan Bunty, OSF
Professed 1956

“We do not need to go out and find love; rather, we need to be still and let love discover us.”
John O’Donohue

Sister Joan Bunty (formerly Sister Josephine Mary) was a quiet woman of faith who lived a life of prayer and loving service as an educator and pastoral minister. Sister Joan entered the eternal loving embrace of God on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 68 years.

Sister Joan grew up in Baltimore’s St. Anthony Parish with her parents, Edward and Agnes, her four brothers, and her three sisters. She was educated by the Sisters of St. Francis from first through twelfth grade and was a graduate of The Catholic High School of Baltimore. Joan entered the congregation the winter after graduation. She once wrote, “I have always felt it a privilege to be able to follow the way of Francis. Living a simple lifestyle means a great deal to me.” Sister Joan earned her bachelor’s degree in English from Neumann University (then Our Lady of Angels College) and her MS in Religious Studies from Marywood College. She began her ministry as a teacher for elementary and high-school students in Philadelphia and Allentown for over 16 years.

Joan returned to her home diocese in 1976 and spent 44 years of ministry in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. She worked as the director of campus ministry at Mt. St. Mary’s College in Emmitsburg and as the director of religious education at SS Philip and James Church in Baltimore. Joan then channeled her gifts into her work as a pastoral associate at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Crofton and St. Gabriel Church in Windsor Mill. One follower on the congregational Facebook page remembers Sister Joan as, “Such a blessing at Seton Parish in Crofton, Maryland.” She also worked in pastoral care at St. Elizabeth Rehab and Nursing Center in Baltimore. She returned to St. Gabriel in volunteer ministry before moving to Assisi House in 2021.

Writing about her life, Sister Joan said, “I loved working with people and supporting them in ministry. I would like to be remembered as a prayerful Franciscan who was faith-filled as well as a faithful friend.” Her good friend Sister Anne Therese Hall shared, “Joan was a good, holy woman and a good friend. She was devoted to her family and was open to everyone. She was also a great cook.” Sister Ann David Strohminger agrees saying, “Joan was a bundle of joy.” Sister Joan enjoyed playing card games and doing jigsaw and crossword puzzles. And in the past, being from Baltimore, one of her favorite things to do was to go fishing and crabbing.

Joan, your compassionate heart intuited the needs of others and saw that they were met. You shared your many gifts and brightened hearts with your warm smile and loving spirit. Rest now in the loving and generous heart of the God whom you so willingly served.

All services will be held at Assisi House on Thursday, April 4, and will be livestreamed.
A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 A.M., with burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.