Sister Doris Johnson, OSF
Professed 1960

“We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions.” Pope Francis

Sister Doris Johnson (formerly Sister Joseph Marian), OSF, lived a life of loving service reaching out to those in need as an educator and social worker. Sister Doris entered the eternal loving embrace of God on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 64 years.

Growing up in Philadelphia with her parents, Samuel and Mary and her four siblings, Sister Doris attended St. Madeline Parish and was a proud graduate of Hallahan High School. She entered the congregation in January 1958. Sister Doris earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Neumann University (then Our Lady of Angles College), a bachelor’s degree in social work from Temple University, and a master’s degree in social work from Rutgers. Using this extensive preparation and her many gifts, she ministered in education and social and pastoral services.

Sister Doris began her ministry as a teacher in Baltimore’s Little Flower School. She went on to teach for 15 years in classrooms in the dioceses of Baltimore and Wilmington and for one year in Naples, Florida. She returned to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and began 14 years of ministry in social work as a drug and alcohol counselor. She then served the congregation for close to 20 years as director of pastoral services, and then for a few more years as a volunteer and a driver. From 2021 until her death, she lived in Assisi House and served there in prayer and hospitality ministry. Sister Mary Smith worked with Doris in pastoral care and said, “As the first director of the Office of Pastoral Services, Doris created a legacy of trust and confidence with our sisters. She was a seasoned professional, bringing a collaborative and compassionate presence, a strong ethic of confidentiality, and a wealth of social work practice and wisdom to her ministry. With a reverential regard for the human person, Doris listened, encouraged, and empowered our sisters. I am deeply grateful for all that Doris was for our sisters and our pastoral services team. Her sisterly presence and infectious humor, and her fidelity to our Franciscan charism and values and the social work profession were truly a blessing.”

Outside of her ministries, Sister Doris enjoyed keeping up on the current news and fighting for justice for all. You could often find Doris at a rally or march alongside those in need. Doris was a fun-loving person who always greeted others with a smile. Her friend Sister Donna Roccio agreed stating, “Doris was a strong, caring, and (fun-loving) sister deeply devoted to her family, friends, and community.” Sister Jean Rupertus said of her friend of over 65 years, “Doris was a woman of wisdom, a lover of music and dance, and was dedicated to living her Franciscan Mission. Her gift of active listening to those troubled and to those who others would consider ‘nobodies’ enabled many to feel like they were ‘somebody.’ While in Sister Doris’ presence, men, women, and children were able to unearth their giftedness and begin to love themselves again. Doris believed deeply that it was her calling to exchange love and respect with all who sought her help. Perhaps she was so loved because she was real, down-to-earth, and human.” Sister Doris, you were a healing compassionate presence to all who were blessed to cross your path. May you rest now in the arms of the God of Love!

All services will be held at Assisi House on Monday, April 15, 2024.
A Christian Wake Service will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Funeral Mass at 11 A.M.
Funeral will be livestreamed. Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.