



Sister Leonora Juliani, OSF

Professed 1953

"Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free! I follow the plan God laid for me" – Author Unknown



Sister Leonora Juliani, OSF, (formerly Sister Marie Rita) passed away at her home in Assisi House on her 95th birthday, July 10, 2024, after a long life of ministering with love, kindness, and caring. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 71 years. Sister Leonora entered the congregation in August 1950 and went on to serve countless children through her ministry in education.

While she was growing up, Leonora, her parents—Albert and Agnes—and her five brothers and sisters lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Leonora attended St. Mary of the Eternal Parish and is a graduate of Hallahan High School. In 1967, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in education from Mount St. Mary College in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Sister Leonora used her keen knowledge and knack for organization in her ministry in education. Teaching grades two through eight, she gave individualized attention to her students to allow each to find their own passion for learning—skills she also used while serving as principal at St. Anthony School in Wilmington. After 35 years teaching in Baltimore, Maryland; Washington, DC; and Wilmington, Delaware; Sister Leonora felt she needed to do something different, so in 1980 she took a

position as librarian at Corpus Christ School in Wilmington—a position she held for 29 years. Sister Leonora wrote of the experience, "It was my chance to teach the children a joy of reading." Sister Joan Dew lived with Leonora at Corpus Christi Convent for over 20 years and said, "Leonora was the one who brought the school library into the computer/digital age—no small feat. Teachers at the school all knew her and are sad to learn of her passing."

Sister Leonora wants to be remembered as a "prayer-filled sister who enjoyed the company of community living." She wrote that, "I am grateful to be a member of the Sisters of St. Francis because of the many opportunities allowed. I have been able to grow in many ways, including spiritually and professionally. I feel honored to have been a part of this congregation." Her friend, Sister Joann McPolin, agrees and describes Leonora as "a faith-filled woman who loved community life and being with her family—her family was very important to her."

In addition to her ministries, Sister Leonora enjoyed crocheting, needle point, and sewing and used these talents to create many items that were sold at the annual Sisters of St. Francis Foundation craft fair. Sister Joann shared, "With a generous heart, she beautifully crocheted baby sets and blankets for various community projects." She also enjoyed mind games like cryptogram and sudoku. Sister Joan shared, "Leonora was always working on a project, she was a very active person."

"Lee, as we often called her, was full of energy well into her 90s," commented Sister Ellie Moore, a long-time friend; "We would refer to her as the 'Energizer Bunny' because she simply had more energy than the rest of us. She also loved to cook and was a terrific baker." Sister Joan agreed, "She made the best 7-Up cake in the world."

Sister Leonora found joy in helping others and being a sister. The world is blessed that she lived and shared her faith in her classrooms and in all her beautiful, Gospel-centered life. A line in a poem she selected for her funeral, "Remembered Joy," reads, "I saw His face, I heard his call, I took His hand and left it all... And if my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy—a friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss. Ah yes, these things I, too, shall miss." Rest now, Sister Leonora, in the arms of the God you so graciously served.

All services will be held at Assisi House on Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

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 be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Aston.