



Sr. Frances Schiminsky, OSF

Professed 1948



"Do not forget that the value and interest of life is not so much to do conspicuous things ...as to do ordinary things with the perception of their enormous value." – Teilhard de Chardin



Sr. Frances Schiminsky, OSF, (formerly Sr. Ann Philip) lived a life of prayer and loving service. Sr. Frances passed away in Assisi House on Monday, October 21, 2024, a little over two weeks shy of her 96th birthday. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 78 years.

In her early years, Frances, her parents—Frank and Helen—and her sisters lived in Baltimore and worshipped at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Middle River. Sr. Frances entered the congregation in 1946 and professed her first vows in 1948. Sr. Frances began her ministry as a cook, serving a year each at St. Alphonsus and St. Benedict Convents in Philadelphia, and a year at St. Ann Convent in Wilmington.

Sr. Frances ministered for 42 years in elementary education. She taught for a year at Nativity School in Washington, DC; a year at St. Joseph School in Dallastown, PA; and a year at Our Lady of Victory School in Purcell, OK. Next, she spent five years teaching at Holy Trinity School in Boston. Sr. Frances continued her teaching career in the Trenton diocese, teaching at St. Anthony, St. Rose of Lima, and Blessed Sacrament for a total of eight years. In 1966, Sr. Frances returned to her native Baltimore. She taught at St. Joseph, St. Stephen's, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel for a combined 26 years. After 42 years as an educator, Sr. Frances felt called to parish ministry. She spent five years in parish ministry at St. Clement Parish, before moving to volunteer ministry at St. Patrick in Havre de Grace, MD, for 19 years. At St. Patrick's, Sr. Frances visited parishioners in the hospital, worked with the RCIA program, was an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, and was the best friend to the "associate pastor"—Clancy, an Irish Setter. In 2003 St. Patrick's Church created the Sr. Frances Schiminsky Scholarship Fund, and in January 2006, the parish held a dinner honoring her 60 years of service. The dinner raised over \$5000 for the scholarship fund. In 2017 Sr. Frances moved to Assisi House, the congregation's retirement residence in Aston, where she served in prayer and hospitality ministry until her death.

Sr. Frances love for dogs was echoed by many on Facebook, as well as her gifts as a teacher. One former student left her a special blessing, "May the jumble words be easy, let the sentence diagramming be long with lots of prepositions, the lime Jello be plenty, and all the dogs you can pet. I have been blessed to have had you as a teacher and family friend. Thank you for so many fond memories." Another former student shared, "I will never forget your walkie talkie's, us watching the afternoon puppy on Fridays during lunch, or our penmanship tests. You were a great friend to my Mom. One of my favorite teachers ever." Many former students and their parents said that Sr. Frances was tough, but fair and that she prepared her students well.

Sister Frances was also a woman of deep prayer. She was inspired by the example of her first-grade teacher and said her "prayerful, kind, and gentle way of teaching won my heart and planted the seed of my Franciscan vocation." When asked to describe herself, Sr. Frances said that "I have stick-to-itiveness. I never give up!"

Sister Frances used her sense of humor and her can-do attitude to make a difference in the lives of the countless students, parents, and parishioners who had the pleasure of crossing her path. Her prayerful Franciscan presence and spirit of joy will live on those whose lives She touched. Rest now, good and faithful servant, in the loving arms of God.

*All services will be held at Assisi House on Friday, October 25, 2024, and will be livestreamed.
Viewing will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M.
Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

