



## *Sr. Mary Anne Craig, OSF Professed 1992*

*"Blessed are you in whom the light lives, in whom the brightness blazes." Jan Richardson*



Sr. Mary Anne Craig, OSF, 62, a beloved teacher, a loving sister, and a faithful servant of God, died in Assisi House on November 14, 2024. Born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Mary was raised by her parents, Francis Joseph and Mary Alice, along with her five brothers and one sister. A member of St. Elizabeth Parish in Whitehall and a graduate of Central Catholic High School in Allentown, Mary worked as a teacher before entering the congregation in 1990 and professing her first vows in 1992. She earned a BA in English and Journalism from Mount St. Mary's College, an MA in theology from the Graduate Theological Union, and a Doctorate in Theology from La Salle University.

Sr. Mary was a woman of unwavering commitment, dedicating her life to both God and the young people entrusted to her care. As a teacher at St. Bonaventure School, St. Mary of the Assumption School, and Little Flower High School in Philadelphia, she was a source of wisdom, guidance, and inspiration. Her classroom was not just a place of academic learning, but also a sanctuary where students were nurtured in faith and encouraged to grow as individuals. Sr. Mary's teaching reflected her own deep understanding of the Gospel, her lessons shaped not only by knowledge but by a profound sense of compassion and purpose. She also shared this talent with students at Most Pure of Heart of Mary School in Mobile, Alabama; St. Barbara School, Philadelphia; and Waldron Mercy Academy in Merion, Pennsylvania.

She was a teacher in the truest sense of the word—patient, kind, and ever hopeful. Her students, past and present, remember her not only for the lessons she gave but for the way she made each of them feel seen, heard, and valued. Several former students commented on the news of Sr. Mary's passing, with one former student writing, "My most favorite teacher at Little Flower. She helped me through a lot my junior and senior year." Another wrote, "She was my Spanish teacher and homeroom teacher. Always was so kind and compassionate." Sr. Mary had the unique gift of drawing out the best in those around her, always leading by example and showing others what it meant to live a life centered in Christ.

But perhaps more than anything, Sr. Mary was a woman of prayer. Her quiet, steadfast devotion to God was the bedrock of her life. When asked about her life as a Sister of St. Francis, Sr. Mary once wrote, "Being a vowed Franciscan woman is living love with God and being Jesus." Whether in the chapel, with her community, or alone, Sr. Mary turned to prayer for strength, for solace, and for guidance. It was this deep spiritual life that sustained her through the most difficult of times, including the long and painful battle with cancer that she faced with extraordinary grace and courage.

Throughout her illness, Sr. Mary's faith never wavered. She confronted each day with the same peaceful serenity that had defined her life, never complaining, never doubting, but always trusting in God's plan for her. Those who were close to her during this time witnessed a remarkable strength of spirit. A former student and Assisi House employee wrote, "No matter what, Sr. Mary always had a smile on her face. She was one of the kindest sweetest sisters I have known over the years." Even in the face of suffering, she remained a beacon of hope and an example of how to live with dignity and joy, no matter the circumstances. Sr. Mary wrote a poem entitled Pilgrim's Prayer and in it she wrote, "O God, my love, I wrap this day in gratitude to you in whom I long to dwell: receive me, clothe me in your silence sewn of mystery—You are Word always becoming... You're my home..." Mary, may you rest now in the peace of Christ, whose love you so faithfully mirrored.

*All services will be held in Our Lady of Angels Convent on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, and will be live-streamed.  
A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. followed by viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 A.M.  
Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Aston.*

