



Sister Dominica LoBianco, OSF

Professed 1965

I don't want to be an anti, against anybody. I simply want to be the builder of a great affirmation: the affirmation of God, who loves us and who wants to save us." St. Oscar Romero



Throughout her lifetime of serving and uplifting others, Sr. Dominica LoBianco unfailingly loved and served her God. Sr. Dominica (formerly Sr. Ignatius Mary), also known to some as Donna or Iggy, died in Nazareth Hospital on Saturday, December 14, 2024. She was born in York, Pennsylvania, to her parents, Ignatius Aloysius and Josephine, where she grew up with her brother Ignatius (Rick) and was a member of St. Joseph Parish. Dominica graduated from York Catholic High School. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in 1962 and professed her first vows in 1965. Sr. Dominica earned a bachelor's degree in history from Neumann University (then Our Lady of Angels College) and a master's degree in education from Millersville University.

Sr. Dominica began her life as a sister in education, where she taught at St. Mary School, York; Holy Trinity School, Columbia; St. Joseph School, Lancaster; St. Joseph School, Dallastown; and St. Anthony School in Trenton. In 1980 she returned to her alma mater, York Catholic High School, where she taught for 13 years and was credited for creating the school's *Greensleeves* magazine.

After 28 years of teaching, Sr. Dominica served as a pastoral associate in a bilingual parish in Roswell, New Mexico, and in Pala, California. In between these two assignments Dominica joyfully served on the congregational leadership team. For the past 18 years, Sr. Dominica has served as the Director of Outreach with the Hispanic Ministry at St. Laurence Parish in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. In this ministry she helped immigrants to obtain the services, aid, and tangible items they need to survive in their new home. One friend on Facebook commented, "Beloved Sister, Dominica, your faith, humility, joy, and commitment to loving connection are an ongoing inspiration for all who knew you." Sr. Dominica was a force for justice and peace and a champion for Catholic Social Teaching. Sr. Pat Warman shared, "Dominica was in touch with her own vulnerability, and I believe it was from that awareness that her passion for the vulnerable in the world came." She was a staunch advocate for immigration reform and an end to racism. She also put great energy into advocating for victims of human trafficking and death row inmates and was active in numerous organizations advancing peace and justice. Upon hearing of her passing, many organizations reached out with similar messages to this of Jubilee USA, "Sr. Dominica was active and a compassionate person whose hand, always extended to help; we will miss her greatly." She was passionate about the work of transformation and participated in the Transformation Crossroads Core Group, Thresholds of Transformation, and the Futuring Our Franciscan Life Committee.

In her free time, she loved playing cards, board games, crossword puzzles, drawing, painting, cooking, and baking. "She also loved to travel," said her good friend Sr. Albert Mary McSwiggin, "We went on a lot of trips together. She was full of life and enjoyed life to the fullest. She was very generous and had a great sense of humor."

Whatever Sister Dominica did she did with gusto and a love for others. She truly lived the Franciscan values of hospitality and peace and once wrote, "We have the example of Pope Francis whose very life calls us to lift up the poor, to soothe the sick and imprisoned, to create a just world where no one goes hungry. What an inspiration and gift Pope Francis is! I pray all will follow his lead to include all people in our lives." She also once wrote to her fellow sisters and family, "What words can express all you are to me? To me, you are Christ, accepting me as I am, loving me into becoming and supporting me in my becoming. To me, you are Christ, forgiving, healing, being with. To me, you are Christ, energizing, taming, enabling, birthing the Christ in me to holiness. Thank you. I cherish you all." Thank you, Sr. Dominica, for all your love, hard work, and dedication. May the Angels welcome you into Paradise with a card table waiting.

*All services will be held at Our Lady of Angels Convent, Aston, on Friday, December 20, 2024.
Viewing will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. The services will be livestreamed.
Internment of Ashes will follow in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*