



Sr. Mary Ann Mulgrew Professed 1958

"May I live this day Compassionate of heart, Clear in word, Gracious in awareness, Courageous in thought, Generous in love." John O'Donohue

Sr. Mary Ann Mulgrew, OSF, (formerly Sr. John Miriam), 89, died in Assisi House on Thursday, November 28, 2024. She grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with her parents—John and Caroline—and her six brothers and five sisters. The family attended St. Richard Parish, and Mary Ann graduated from Hallahan High School. She entered the congregation in 1955 and professed her first vows in 1958. Two of her sisters, Sr. Juilana and Sr. Ann Regina also entered the community. Growing up the youngest of 12, Mary Ann helped shape her wonderful sense of humor. Her long-time friend, Sr. Rose Raymond Barba, said, "Mary Ann had a child-like simplicity about her. She was very appreciative and grateful for those around her. Her sense of humor was always evident." One friend commented on her passing saying, "R.I.P. now Sister. You were quite a character. You will be missed."



After obtaining her BA in English from Neumann University (then Our Lady of Angels College) and an MS in Reading from Marywood College, Sr. Mary Ann ministered primarily in education and pastoral care. She taught at several schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, including Resurrection School, Chester; St. Ludwig's, St. Bonaventure, St. Elizabeth, and St. Benedict Schools, all in Philadelphia; Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Morton; and St. Stanislaus School in Lansdale. She also taught at St. Mauritius School in Ashland in the Allentown Diocese. As a teacher, she inspired and nurtured countless students. Her commitment to education was unwavering.

In the 1980s, Sr. Mary Ann switched gears to pastoral care. She began volunteering for Assisi House, the congregation's retirement community, driving sisters to and from appointments and aiding in any other way she could to be of service to the retired sisters. Sr. Rose Raymond Barba said, "She enjoyed having fun, being creative, and joking around. She would create little musicals for the sisters in Assisi House to participate in, buying them little plastic instruments to play. Many people didn't know that Mary Ann played the violin herself, even though she couldn't read music. She played all by ear. She was a very talented individual."

Sr. Mary Ann also spent 16 years volunteering at Riddle Hospital in Media, where she first worked in admissions, and after being trained by the hospital, served as a grief counselor. She was a source of comfort and solace, offering her support and wisdom to those navigating some of life's most difficult moments. With a compassionate heart, she helped countless individuals find healing and peace, always pointing them toward the hope and strength of God's love. However, Sr. Mary Ann's sense of humor was one of her most endearing qualities. She could always make you laugh, even in the darkest of times. She knew how to lighten the mood, bring joy, and add a touch of shenanigans to those around her. Yet, beneath that laughter was a woman with deep convictions and a fierce love for those she served.

In writing about her life as a Sister of St. Francis, Sr. Mary Ann wrote, "My life as a Franciscan has been a series of wonderment and awe at the many manifestations of God's unconditional love for all of us. In my time at Assisi House, I have been humbled by all the love the sisters have glowing from within them. I relish in the joy of knowing first-hand that God, like me, is capable of pulling a few shenanigans himself!" Sr. Mary Ann served with a compassionate heart, awareness, courage, and generosity in love. Her impact on all who knew her cannot be measured in words alone but in the countless smiles shared. We will remember her not just for her sense of humor, the lessons she taught, or the comfort she gave, but for the love she shared so generously.

All services will be held at Assisi House on Thursday, December 5. 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.

