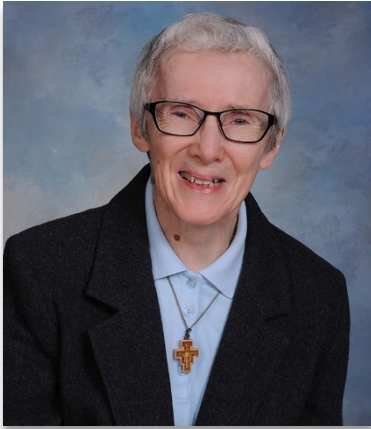




Sr. Marie Therese Carr, OSF

Professed 1958

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love." —St. Thérèse of Lisieux



After a lifetime of sharing smiling looks and kindly words, Sister Marie Therese Carr died on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Christened Mary Florberta, the only child of Irish immigrants Joseph and Nora, the Carrs were members of St. Benedict's in Philadelphia. After graduating from the Academy of the Sisters of Mercy, Marie Therese entered the Sisters of St. Francis in 1955 and professed her first vows in 1958. She went on to earn a BA in English from Mount St. Mary's College and an MA in English from St. Michael's College.

Marie Therese knew she wanted to be a sister from the age of eight. She had a life-long devotion to St. Thérèse of Lisieux and dreamed of joining the Carmelites. Her parents objected to this choice because they didn't want their only child to be in a cloistered order. Having been taught by the Sisters of St. Francis at St. Benedicts, the Franciscans were a logical choice. It also helped that she had a great aunt who was a Franciscan.

Sr. Marie Therese began her ministry in the congregation, teaching first grade at Holy Angels in Newark, Delaware. Next, she moved to Baltimore, where she taught elementary school for 14 years. Following her years in elementary school, Sr. Marie Therese transitioned to teaching high school English, a perfect fit for this avid reader. She taught for 10 years at The Catholic High School of Baltimore and for one year at Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School. After 25 years in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Sr. Marie Therese spent the next 12 years teaching English at Padua Academy in Wilmington, Delaware.

After 38 years of teaching ministry, Sr. Marie Therese switched gears and moved to Aston to be the archivist for Neumann University. She once described her work in the archives as "quiet" and "isolated at times," but this seemed to suit her quiet, prayerful spirit just fine. In addition to her archival work, Sr. Marie Therese served as the chaplain of the women's volleyball team. This allowed her to interact with students—something she missed after retiring from teaching—but it also allowed her to share her love of sports and her love for God with the young women. Discussing this special ministry in the Summer 2009 issue of *Good News*, she said, "God is in our play and in our recreation. The more people realize that and play with the realization that God is in their midst, the better we'll all be." After working in Neumann's archives for 23 years, Sr. Marie Therese spent one year in local house ministry at OLA before moving to Assisi House in 2020 where she served in prayer ministry until the time of her death.

Sr. Ann Marie Slavin taught with Marie Therese at Padua and shared, "She was fun to be with and very kind. She was always very quiet and there was a gentleness to her." Sr. Jean Ustasiewski agreed and added, "Marie Therese's simple lifestyle touched many of her students, coworkers, and sisters as she provided support and help to those she worked with. She was always concerned for others without any concern for herself."

While her favorite leisure activity was reading, Sr. Marie Therese enjoyed singing, walking, and playing games. When asked to describe herself, she wrote, "I am a person who loves God and loves my friends." Whether it was traveling with the volleyball team, helping with the house history at OLA, or lending a listening ear to a friend in need, Sr. Marie Therese emulated her namesake "always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love. Rest now, good and faithful servant, in the arms of our Loving God.

*All services will be held in Assisi House on Monday, January 13, 2025, and will be livestreamed.
A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 A.M.,
with burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

