



Sr. Louise Quinn, OSF

Professed 1967



"One of the most beautiful gifts in the world is the gift of encouragement. When someone encourages you, that person helps you over a threshold you might otherwise never have crossed on your own." John O'Donahue



Sr. Louise Quinn (formerly Sr. Mary Rita), OSF, passed away at Bryn Mawr Hospital on Thursday, March 6, 2025. She was a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 58 years. Through her ministry and example, Sr. Louise taught and ministered with faith, love, and hope offering her encouragement to others as gift. Louise Catherine Quinn was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she grew up with nine siblings and parents, Leo and Louise. The family attended Our Lady of the Rosary Parish and Sr. Louise graduated from West Catholic High School. She entered the congregation in 1964 and professed her first vows in 1967. Sr. Rose Cecilia Case taught Louise at West Catholic. Sr. Patricia Warman shared, "Louise had a very deep appreciation of the Franciscan Spirituality nurtured by Sr. Rose Cecilia." Sr. Marijane Hresko agreed, "She caught the joy of learning Franciscan theology from Sr. Rose." Louise went on to earn a BA in history from Neumann University (then Our Lady of Angels College), an MA in theology from St. Charles Seminary, and an MA in counseling from Marywood University. Sr. Louise ministered primarily in education and pastoral ministry.

During the early years of her ministry, Sr. Louise taught in several schools within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Over the years, she served as an educator, using a variety of educational models from kindergarten through college. She also offered adult training and classes focused on spiritual, psychological, and theological development.

In the late 1970s, after earning her two master's degrees, Sr. Louise shifted her focus to counseling and parish administration. She served at St. Ann Parish in Phoenixville and St. Patrick Parish in Norristown, where she counseled individuals facing transition, divorce, and grief. She also conducted workshops on communication skills and marriage preparation. Sr. Louise later became a pastoral associate before moving to the Diocese of Allentown, where she served as the parish outreach director. In this role, she developed and implemented parish outreach programs, provided professional training and supervision, and acted as a clinical supervisor, marriage and family therapist, and director of the student assistance program in Berks County. Dedicated to lifelong learning, Sr. Louise obtained certification in pastoral counseling and attended workshops on depression, obsessive-compulsive disorders, codependency, crisis counseling, and more. Reflecting on her years of ministry, she once said, "I found it an honor to journey side by side with God's people. And just as Francis did, I hope I helped to ease their pain and helped them to embrace the joys of life." Sr. Marijane believes Louise did just that, "She was very faithful to her ministries. People could count on her to assist and guide them. And she had a wonderful sense of humor—always able to distinguish between the serious and mundane."

Sr. Louise was known for her direct and effective leadership, as well as her engaging and humorous personality. Friends and colleagues remember her as outgoing, gregarious, and deeply compassionate. "She journeyed with cancer for over 12 years," said Sr. Patricia, "But we never heard her complain." Sr. Marijane Hresko agreed, "Louise's illness became her ministry. In sharing with others, she never focused on herself but engaged the other with joyful and sincere conversations." In her free time, Sr. Louise enjoyed cooking, reading, and decorating.

When asked what being a Sister of St. Francis meant to her, Sr. Louise wrote, "Living in community has given me the opportunity to journey with some wonderful women. Their faith and dedication to Christ and His people have encouraged me to know Christ in a more personal way and to use my gifts and talents for the sake of God's people." She continued, "Being a Sister of St. Francis is the core of my life. The Franciscan charism and spirit were a gift given to me by God." For many who knew her, Sr. Louise was a blessing—a woman of faith, wisdom, and love whose legacy will be cherished by those she touched throughout her life.



*All services will be held at Our Lady of Angels Convent on Thursday, March 13, 2025, and will be livestreamed.
Viewing will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M.
Internment of Ashes will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

