



Sr. Marian William Fitzgerald, OSF *Professed 1960*

"Take time to see the quiet miracles that seek no attention" John O'Donohue

Sr. Marian William Fitzgerald, 88, passed away at Riddle Hospital on Thursday, April 3, 2025. Born Marianne Rose Fitzgerald in South Amboy, New Jersey, Marian, her brother William, and her parents, William and Anna, were devoted members of St. Mary Parish. Marian was a graduate of St. Mary's High School. In 1957, she entered the congregation and professed her first vows in 1960. She earned an AA in Dietetics from the New York Institute of Dietetics and a BS in Dietetics from Immaculata College. Her ministry focused on healthcare. Her brother, Msgr. William D. Fitzgerald, P.A., J.C.D., also chose religious life. Reflecting on his death in 2019, an article in the *Trenton Monitor* shared, "Noting their 11-year age difference, Sr. Marian quietly reflected on their close relationship and how he always 'kept an eye out for me while I was growing up. He took care of Mom and me after our father died.'" Sr. Kathy Donovan shared of her friend, "Marian came from a very close-knit family. Her brother took his mother and Marian on vacation every year. They were quite the travelers. On one trip to Bermuda, Marian rode a motorbike. She was very happy about this achievement."



Sr. Marian first encountered the Sisters of St. Francis while working as a dietitian at St. Francis Hospital after high school. Reflecting on that experience, she wrote, "My first impression was kindness to everyone they met. I had been thinking of joining their community because I felt the Lord was calling me, and I was drawn to their white habits. I have never had a regret in my choice." For over 44 years, Sr. Marian served tirelessly in the Diocese of Trenton, dedicating herself to the patients and staff of St. Francis Medical Center. She began as the director of food service and later volunteered as a receptionist. During her time at St. Francis, she helped to establish a Senior Choice Department and managed the hospital's food services. Sr. James Maguire lived and worked with Sr. Marian for 18 years while at St. Francis Medical Center. She shared, "Sr. Marian was highly dedicated to the patients, families, and staff."

Beyond St. Francis, Sr. Marian served as a therapeutic dietitian for one year at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, and for five years at St. Mary Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She also spent six years as food service manager at St. Joseph Hospital in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In 2016 she moved to Assisi House, the congregation's retirement home in Aston, Pennsylvania, where she continued her ministry through prayer and hospitality until her passing. When asked how she wished to be remembered, Sr. Marian wrote, "I want others to remember me as striving to live a Martha-Mary ministry of service and prayer." Those who knew her would describe her as a compassionate, kind, and dedicated woman of faith. "We laughed together, cried together, and celebrated life's greatest joys together," shared Sr. James. "She will be truly missed."

In her free time, Sr. Marian enjoyed crocheting, working on puzzles, and listening to music. Summing up her life as a religious sister, she wrote, "My life has been one of prayer, blessing, community, and grace. I continue to thank God for my life's journey as a Sister of St. Francis." Sr. Marian, you worked quiet miracles in service to others and sought no attention. May you now rest, knowing you have done what was yours to do.

All services will be held in Assisi House on Thursday, April 10, 2025, and will be livestreamed. Viewing will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. Burial will follow in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.