



Sr. Margaret Oman, OSF *Professed 1950*

*"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. Life's most persistent and urgent question is:
What are you doing for others?" – Martin Luther King, Jr.*



Sr. Margaret Oman, OSF, loved reading mystery stories, doing crossword and word search puzzles, and knitting, but her greatest love was caring for others and serving God in the best way she knew how. Sr. Margaret passed away in Assisi House on May 3, 2025. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 75 years.

In her early years, Margaret, her parents—William and Margaret—and her six brothers and four sisters lived in Drumcondra, County Dublin, Ireland, and attended Our Lady of the Seven Dolors Church in Glasnevin. Following in the footsteps of her sisters—Annie and Patricia Joseph—Margaret entered the Sisters of St. Francis in 1946 and professed her first vows in 1950. The trip from Ireland to the States was the first of many adventures for Sr. Margaret.

Sr. Margaret began her ministry teaching in Trenton, NJ, and Lansdale, PA, before moving west, where she spent six years teaching in Spokane, WA, and 11 years in Oregon's Baker Diocese. Sr. Joan Roddy lived with Sr. Margaret in

Pendleton, OR, and remembers her as someone who was happy, playful, and fun, but also someone who was quiet and always maintained her dignity. "Academically she was always on top of things. She had a great rapport with students and parents and was highly respected. She had a unique inner authority about her." Sr. Joan said. "Being the younger sisters in our house, Sr. Rochelle Liu and I used to tease and joke with Sr. Margaret. We were delighted by it and her reaction to us. Though she didn't participate, she seemed to love watching the antics of others."

Sr. Margaret taught for two years at St. Leo High School in Tacoma, WA, before transitioning to parish and clerical work, serving at St. Joseph Hospital in Tacoma and St. Joseph Parish in Lynden. She also spent two years at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Portland, OR. In California, Sr. Margaret served for 15 years in parish ministry at St. Christopher Parish in Moreno Valley and Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Alta Loma. She also served for six years as DRE at Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, while also the superior of her convent in San Diego. "She had a strong community life and loved engaging with sisters; was very approachable, organized, and efficient in handling a lot of tasks at once," her fellow sisters remember.

Eventually returning to the East Coast, Sr. Margaret volunteered for 13 years at Neumann University before moving to Assisi House in 2016. Reflecting on her life, she once wrote, "It seems life was different each time I moved," embracing each new experience as a blessing. During her time at Assisi House, Sr. Margaret took great joy in knitting Irish afghans to be sold at the congregation's annual holiday craft fair and making other crafts. She would often be seen having a conversation, while knitting away. She enjoyed a good cup of tea to the point that it was almost ritual in her life.

"Sr. Margaret was also musically gifted, often singing at funeral Masses in Latin," shared Sr. Joan. Her love of music was evident and if you walked past her room at Assisi House, you would often hear Kenny Rogers playing. Sr. Margaret loved her large family and treasured their lively gatherings, including intense card games and playful teasing. Many who knew Sr. Margaret will remember her sweet and lovely smile, her quiet dedication to her work, and the wonderful example of her dedicated life to Christ and the community. Through all those she served and everyone who had the blessing of knowing her, Sr. Margaret Oman's quiet joy and unending kindness will continue to spread in the world.

All services will be held at Assisi House on Wednesday, May 14, 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 be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.

