



Sr. Magdalen Mary Dunne, OSF *Professed 1955*

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

Tagore



Sr. Magdalen Mary Dunne peacefully entered eternal rest at Assisi House on June 16 at the age of 90, having recently celebrated her Diamond Jubilee as a Sister of St. Francis. Born Mary Theresa in Tullamore, County Offaly, Ireland, she was baptized at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish which she attended with her loving family—parents John and Kathleen, one brother, and three sisters. At the tender age of 15, Mary Theresa answered the call to religious life, entering the Sisters of St. Francis in Mallow in 1950. After completing her postulancy in Ireland, she courageously journeyed across the Atlantic to Aston, Pennsylvania, for her novitiate, beginning a life of service that would span seven decades.

Following her first profession, Sr. Maggie spent her initial seven years in the Wilmington Diocese, serving as a cook at St. Anthony Convent in Wilmington and Holy Angels Convent in Newark. The remaining 63 years of her religious life were devoted to ministry within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, where she would become beloved by countless sisters. Her Philadelphia ministry began in the kitchen at Our Lady of Angels (OLA), where her extraordinary kindness to novices became the stuff of legend. Several sisters credit Sr. Maggie's loving support during their formative years with saving their vocations. She served as a gentle bridge between the head cook—a sister with a strong Donegal accent—and confused young novices who struggled to understand directions. Perhaps most memorably, Sr. Maggie had a special gift for comforting distressed novices by quietly leading them to the ice cream room for a sweet treat and an even sweeter conversation.

After eight years at OLA, Sr. Maggie moved to St. Mary of the Assumption Convent in Bryn Mawr, where she lovingly prepared meals for retired sisters. Her culinary journey continued at the newly established Assisi House in Aston, where she served in the kitchen for a decade before returning to OLA for another ten-year tenure. Following 41 years of nourishing her fellow sisters through her culinary ministry, Sr. Maggie discovered new ways to serve. She became a compassionate social advocate at Assisi House, driving sisters to appointments and sharing her radiant Franciscan presence wherever she went. She later embraced local house ministry at OLA before making her final move to Assisi House in 2014, where she devoted herself to prayer ministry until her death.

In her leisure moments, Sr. Maggie found joy in knitting, watching movies, and listening to beautiful music. When reflecting on her life as a Sister of St. Francis, she shared, "I appreciate greatly what the community has done for me. My body, mind, and soul have been taken care of. There were hills and valleys, but the protection of God was always with me. Thanks to all those who have helped me on my journey—my family in Ireland, my friends, and my Sisters of St. Francis."

Sr. Maggie's legacy lives on in the countless hearts she touched through her boundless generosity, unwavering kindness, and that luminous smile that seemed to light up every room she entered. News of her passing moved many sisters to tears, and social media filled with loving tributes. Sr. Mary Teresa Boland beautifully captured the sentiment of many: "Sr. Magdalen was a beautiful and generous sister who always had a captivating smile which portrayed her inner goodness. She will be missed by all." Sr. Magdalen Mary embodied Franciscan joy so completely that it radiated through her beautiful smile and the gentle twinkle in her eyes. Rest now, beloved sister, in the loving arms of the Lord you served so faithfully and joyfully throughout your remarkable life.

***All services will be held at Assisi House on Tuesday, June 24, 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.***

