

# Sister Nora Nash, OSF

Professed 1961

*"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied." ~ Mt. 5:6*



Sr. Nora Nash was a compassionate woman with a fire for justice and the will and skills to make a difference in this world. Born in Cahernagh, County Limerick, Ireland, she grew up in a large family with her parents James and Johanna. Nora was the second youngest of her mother's children with three older brothers, two older sisters, and one younger sister. Nora also had eight half siblings (four boys and four girls) from her father's first marriage. From a young age, she dreamed of being a missionary in Africa, but her mother wouldn't allow it, so instead, Nora became a Sister of St. Francis. Entering the congregation in Mallow at 16 years of age, she journeyed to Pennsylvania the following year for her novitiate years.

Following her first profession, Sr. Nora began her teaching ministry at St. Joseph School in Raritan, New Jersey. She went on to teach at St. Raphael School in Trenton, St. Joseph School in Lancaster, and Blessed Sacrament in Walpole. After returning to St.

Raphael for one year, Sr. Nora was tapped to be the principal of a struggling school in Hamilton Square, New Jersey. Always one to accept a challenge, Sr. Nora turned St. Gregory the Great into one of the greatest success stories in the diocese. Now named St. Gregory the Great Academy, the school recently posted on Facebook, "Sr. Nora, our principal from 1978-1994, was the driving force that prevented our school from closing in the late 70s due to low enrollment. All of us ... walk today on the shoulders of the giants who came before us." Sr. Nora loved being a principal, but when the congregation asked her to take on the role of novice director, she accepted it willingly and threw herself into the role, as only Nora could do. Just ask any of her former novices and they will be able to tell you about her teaching posters written in her best calligraphy, her ability to always look on the bright side of a situation (and challenge you to do the same), and her ability to speak her truth even when it was unpopular.

Her willingness to step up when the need arose, combined with her fire for justice, came together when she was asked to step into the role of director of Corporate Social Responsibility. In *If Nuns Ruled the World*, Nora explained, "...I was committed to working for justice and working for the common good. I liked the idea of working with corporations, because if we are to share in the benefits of the corporation, then we must actively engage in environmental, social, and governance issues" (Piazza, 158). And engaging with corporations is exactly what Sr. Nora did for 21 years in this role. She earned quite the reputation during this time. Type Sr. Nora Nash into your browser and you will find many articles about her. She even has her own Wikipedia page! Even after leaving the role, Nora continued her advocacy work through her parish's Care for Creation committee, CIRCQL in Chester, and as a member of the congregation's justice committee—among many other efforts.

When not working for justice, Nora loved reading, listening to music, and following the Philly sports teams. She was also an amazing friend and sister. Sr. Pat Bove explained, "For me, Nora was like *a shining light* who appeared at the exact time you needed her or one of her gifts. She was always equipped with an abundance of love, heartfelt compassion, understanding, comfort, support, encouragement, wisdom, a warm embrace, an offer of help, or *a push to get things done*." In 2002, Nora had a serious health problem that nearly killed her. Spending three weeks in ICU and six months recuperating at Assisi House, she continued to suffer from autoimmune issues for the rest of her life. But Nora didn't let these challenges stop her from giving her all to wherever God was calling her. When asked how she would like to be remembered, Nora recently wrote, "I have been faithful to the Gospel and made a definite effort to walk as sister. I have fulfilled and enjoyed my different ministries with a sense of integrity, justice, and a serious consideration for the common good." Rest now, dear sister, in the loving arms of our God.

*All services will be held at Assisi House on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M., with Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. Internment of Ashes will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery. The services will be livestreamed.*