



*Sister Margaret St. John
Brocato, OSF
Professed 1949*



“A blessing is a powerful and positive intention that can transform situations and people. Wherever you give a blessing, a blessing returns to enfold you.” John O’Donohue

Sr. Margaret St. John Brocato died in Assisi House on October 14. She was born in Baltimore and entered the congregation in 1947. Her many years of ministry as a teacher and principal took her to the Dioceses of Baltimore; Washington, DC; Wilmington; and Philadelphia. During her many years in education, Margaret was known not only for her skills as both teacher and principal, but also for her organizational and leadership skills. These abilities served her well when she retired from educational positions and began to work at Assisi House. There she managed the gift shop and was also frequently found at the reception desk greeting visitors and managing the phones.

Margaret St. John was always very close to her family. Asked at one point what being a Sister of St. Francis meant to her, she replied, “Being a Sister of St. Francis has been enriching and rewarding and I owe my vocation to my wonderful parents who were my inspiration.” In her jubilee reflection written in 2019, she expressed a similar emotion when she wrote, “As I reflect on the 70+ years I have been in the community, I count my parents and brothers and sisters as my richest blessings.”

Margaret herself was a quiet woman who was comfortable with her own presence. She enjoyed crocheting, reading, all types of puzzles, and listening to good music—all pastimes that she could enjoy both alone or with others.

One sister recalled that when she was visiting a friend at Queen of Peace Convent, she also stopped in to say “Hello” to Margaret with whom she had lived some years ago. The sister noticed a sign above Margaret’s desk that read, “Good Morning! This is God. I will be handling all of your problems today. I don’t need your help. Have a nice day!” The sister—who was a bit of a worrier—asked Margaret if she could copy it. Margaret not only agreed but immediately sat at her desk and typed the quote for her. Today that quote is still taped to the wall in that sister’s office.

Poet John O’Donohue wrote “A blessing is a powerful and positive intention that can transform situations and people. Wherever you give a blessing, a blessing returns to enfold you.” Margaret St. John, you were, over the years, a blessing to the children that you taught and the staffs that you mentored, a blessing to your family and friends and to the sisters with whom you lived. May you rest now with the God of all blessings—at peace and secure in that Godly Love that knows no bounds!

*All services will be held in Assisi House, 600 Red Hill Road, Aston, Pennsylvania, 19014
on Thursday, October 22 but will be private. Burial of cremated remains will be in
Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

