

Sister Eileen Walsh, OSF
1936-2020



“The way you look at things is the most powerful force in shaping your life.” John O’Donohue



Sister Eileen Walsh, OSF, (formerly Sister Patrick Mary), 84, died in Assisi House on September 20. Eileen was born in Philadelphia and entered the congregation in 1956. Eileen explained at one point that she entered the congregation because she admired the commitment of the Franciscan sisters she met at Hallahan High School. She knew that she, too, wanted to spend her life reaching out to others. Without a doubt, Eileen lived out that desire in her years of ministry—ministries in education and social services that took her to the dioceses of Wilmington, Baltimore, Charleston, and, of course, to her native Philadelphia. In each ministry Eileen—with a sense of joy and engagement—reached out to share her gifts.

Within community Eileen was known for her sense of humor and for her winning smile. She sometimes entertained at community gatherings and guests knew that the time spent together would be a time for laughter, a time for simply enjoying one another.

Eileen was also known for her kindness, her efforts to be considerate of others, and her willingness to help others in any way she could. Her innate gift of wit was humorous—never hurtful. She made people smile by her quick responses—whether those be verbal or gestured. Eileen also loved to engage people in conversation and was always quick to affirm others—often people she had not previously met. For example, a visit to a grocery store usually ended up with Eileen engaging in conversation with someone she had never met. In short, Eileen was totally “other centered”—using her own skills of engagement to reach out and seek the goodness and beauty in others.

Poet John O’Donohue wrote “The way you look at things is the most powerful force in shaping your life.” Eileen, you looked at life and, despite life’s sometimes “sore spots” and negativity, you saw that life was both good and God-given—and you reached out to others to share that upbeat and positive side of life. Rest now in the love of our God who is both Life and Love—and know that you are embraced by these God Gifts for all eternity!

All services will be held in Assisi House on Thursday, September 24, at 11 A.M., and will be private. Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Aston.

