



Sr. Loretta Francis Mann, OSF Professed 1951

“Beauty isn’t all about just loveliness...Beauty is about more rounded, substantial becoming...about an emerging fullness, a greater sense of grace and elegance, a deeper sense of depth, and also a kind of homecoming for the enriched.” John O’Donahue

Sr. Loretta Francis Mann, OSF, (92), died in Assisi House on December 21. Born in York, Pennsylvania, Loretta (Doris Jean Mann) entered the congregation in 1948 and professed her first vows in 1951. She ministered primarily in education as teacher and principal as well as in diocesan administration. Her years in ministry took Loretta to the Dioceses of Philadelphia, Hartford, and Allentown.

Loretta was well known as an excellent teacher. Those innate gifts were readily shared, not only with the children whom she taught but also with coworkers. Some years ago, asked how she would like to be remembered, Loretta replied, “For my love for the Sisters of St. Francis, my love for the teaching profession, and my dedication and commitment to children.” That love was definitely reciprocated by Loretta’s coworkers. A 2001 article in the *Catholic Transcript* opened by describing Loretta as one who was “accustomed to surprising teachers with special awards...[as] part of her style and graciousness in motivating others.” This time, however, the surprise was on Loretta. Educators from 72 elementary schools were gathered for the Archdiocesan Teachers Institute. When Loretta’s 52 years in education were announced, attendees “streamed onto the stage presenting gifts and letters of appreciation.”

In 2010 Loretta was one of 14 people from Connecticut who took her “gift of giving” to Haiti to assist the Haitian Health Foundation. A *Community News* article described the territory as “rough.” The clinic where the group worked had only cold water. Loretta traveled into the mountains assisting a dentist, taking patients to the nurse, and assisting at a children’s clinic. In 2014 she took her love for children to St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. There she volunteered three days a week as a “baby cuddler” at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Her “cuddling” included singing to the babies, rocking them, and...yes...reading to them! And as an article in the *Courant* states, “...before she even picks up an infant, she says a prayer over each of them.”

Poet John O’Donohue wrote “Beauty isn’t all about just loveliness...Beauty is about more rounded, substantial becoming...about an emerging fullness, a greater sense of grace and elegance, a deeper sense of depth, and also a kind of homecoming for the enriched.” Loretta, your love for those with and for whom you ministered...be it in education or in service to others...reflects the goodness and the love of the God whom you served all your life. Enjoy now your blessed homecoming to that God of all Goodness and all Love!

*Prayer Service will be held in Assisi House on a later date, after Christmas.
Internment of cremated remains will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

