



## *Sr. Hildegarde Grogan, OSF Professed 1957*

*“Nothing is so strong as true gentleness. Nothing is so gentle as true strength.”  
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*



Sister Hildegarde Grogan died in Assisi House on January 20. A native Philadelphian, she entered the congregation in 1954. Her many years as a health care professional took her to the Dioceses of Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore, and Harrisburg.

Hildegarde was a quiet, gentle woman whose welcoming smile made others—whether they be patients, family, or members of the congregation—feel at ease. People who knew her described Hildegarde as a woman of gentle strength, always able to greet others with a bright, energetic presence. She was kind and generous with her time and as both nurse and community member, was sensitive to the needs of others. In administrative roles she was seen as both a good listener and an organized planner

Hildegarde was also close to her family—and that sense of closeness was reciprocal. When Hildegarde’s obituary was posted on social media, several of her nieces and nephews responded. One niece referred to her aunt as a “beautiful soul...vibrant and inspiring...always seeking ways to serve others and learn new things.” Another recalled her aunt’s sense of humor. During a tour of the congregation’s grounds, Hildegarde pointed out Assisi House to her niece and declared, “I can’t wait till it’s my turn to go there...it’s one step closer to being with the Lord.”

Hildegarde wrote once when asked about what being a Sister of St. Francis meant to her, “The most important blessing to me has been the gift to grow in what I call an attitude of open-ended waiting, expecting that new things will happen, far beyond my imagination or prediction.” This open-endedness is evident also in her attraction to both quiet means of relaxation such as walking, reading, and sketching with her enjoyment of exploring different world views and meeting and making new acquaintances. Does this blending perhaps reflect in varied ways the view that Hildegarde was, indeed, a woman of gentle strength? Johann Wolfgang von Goethe wrote, “Nothing is so strong as true gentleness. Nothing is so gentle as true strength.” Hildegarde, you rest now in the embrace of the God of All Gentleness, the God of All Strength. Remember those of us who knew you and love you—that we, too, might grow in both strength and gentleness!

*The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Assisi House on Tuesday, January 26 at 11 A.M.  
and is private. Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.  
A memorial Mass will be held at a later date.*

