



## *Sister Agnes O'Brien, OSF* 1926-2021

*“May you awaken to the mystery of being here/And enter the quiet immensity of your own presence.”*

John O'Donohue



Sister Agnes O'Brien, OSF, (formerly Sister Timothy Marie), died in Assisi House on January 6. Agnes was born in Staten Island, New York. During her 66 years as a Sisters of St. Francis, she ministered in healthcare, pastoral ministry, and congregational service—ministries which took her to the Dioceses of Philadelphia, Baltimore, Trenton, and Allentown.

Sisters who knew Agnes well described her as a woman who was very thoughtful and keenly aware of the needs of others—an awareness that led her to reach out to others on a personal one-on-one basis. “Agnes was devoted to our senior sisters—especially those who were beginning to decline either physically or mentally,” one sister explained. Described as a somewhat “reluctant leader,” Agnes was also a woman of courage who did not hesitate to take the necessary steps to start a new program during her term as CEO at St. Francis Hospital in Trenton.

On various congregational forms, Agnes stated that she hoped to be remembered as a peaceful person who was concerned with the welfare of others. That oft repeated “hope” became an evident reality in Agnes' life both in ministry and in the relationships she developed within the community. She was recognized as a woman who was faithful to prayer and to the mission of her various ministries. Community life was important to Agnes and she often expressed her appreciation for the sisters with whom she lived. Even in more recent days—when her ability to actually recognize sisters had declined—Agnes continued to acknowledge visitors with a warm and welcoming smile.

Quiet by nature, Agnes was also someone who enjoyed a good time—aware that she herself did not have to be the life of the party. Her thoughtfulness was part of her gift to others, including her family members. She tried, when possible, to bring her family together and often reminded them that “I'm praying for you.”

Poet John O'Donohue wrote, “May you awaken to the mystery of being here/And enter the quiet immensity of your own presence.” Agnes, throughout your years of ministry, your quiet presence was evident in the lives of those to whom you ministered, to your family, and to the sisters with whom you lived. May you rest now in the eternal presence of the gentle God whose love you shared with all whom you met during your lifetime.

*All services will be held in Assisi House on Wednesday, January 13, at 11 A.M., and will be private. Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Aston.*

