



## *Sister Mary Carmel Molloy, OSF Professed 1962*

*"We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. . . .  
we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others." St. Clare of Assisi*



Sister Mary Carmel Molloy loved her community and family, her students, and the countless people she served with compassion and wisdom locally and around the world. Sister Carmel (formerly Sister Carmelette) died in Assisi House on October 11, 2021. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 59 years.

Reflecting on the roots of her calling to be a Franciscan, Sister Carmel wrote, "While I was educated by the Presentation sisters, I was profoundly influenced by my encounters with the friars and the Poor Clares. I first met the Franciscan friars at the Franciscan Abbey in Galway, Ireland—my hometown." After entering the congregation in Mallow, Ireland, Sister Carmel flew to New York and from there traveled to Aston. Assigned to begin formation in the Western Province, she next traveled by train to Portland, Oregon, where she would make her vows.

Throughout her life, Sister Carmel loved travel, walking, Celtic culture, and exploring many fields of learning. She followed her love of reading and literature by earning a BA in English from Marylhurst College and then earned an MA in secondary education administration from Portland State University and an MA in theological studies from Chicago Theological Union. Sister Carmel used her education, interests, and gifts in the service of elementary and high school students in Oregon, Washington, and California. In addition to her teaching, she served as assistant principal at LaSalle High School in Milwaukie, Oregon, and as principal at Our Lady of Lourdes School, Seattle, and St. Thomas School, Riverside, California.

Her extensive missionary work included five years in Holy Family Cathedral Parish in Antigua, where she ministered in several settings, including a prison and a mental hospital. For six years, Sister Carmel's missionary ministry took her back to Galway, and for nearly two decades she ministered in the dioceses of Wilmington and Philadelphia, including serving as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia Congregational Council. Most recently, she served in Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen in Utica and in prayer ministry in Assisi House.

Sister Carmel's wide interests and her devotion to others are at the center of memories of her. Like Sister Carmel, Sister Mary Griffin grew up in Galway. During shared times returning to Ireland, they loved long walks along the Salthill Promenade overlooking Galway Bay. Sister Mary also speaks of Sister Carmel's notable intellectual pursuits and accomplishments. Sister Patricia Gamgort, OSB, worked with Sister Carmel at St. Martin's Ministries in Ridgely, Maryland, and writes of the love she inspired: "One little fellow, about age four, was going to marry her when he grew up!" Sister Esther Anderson, who served for six years with Sister Carmel on the congregational council, speaks of Sister Carmel's prayerful and deep spirituality and of her great desire to minister to the underserved. Sister Esther and Sister Carmel traveled together to Africa, where Sister Carmel was "very much at home with the people she met and helped."

All who knew Sister Carmel Molloy and all those whose lives she touched are deeply grateful for the love and compassion she felt and gave.

*All services will be held at Assisi House on Tuesday, October 19. A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. with a viewing following. Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11 A.M., with burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

