

Sister Frances Walters, OSF *October 4, 1915 - April 26, 2016*



Secular Name: Frances
Entrance: August 2, 1933
Birth: October 4, 1915
Parents: Barbara and Louis
Sibling: Fr. Thomas, Anna, John, Helen, Frank
Elementary School: Saint Casimir
High School: Saint Francis Academy
Higher Education: Duquesne Univ. B.A.; St. Louis Univ.;
St. John College; John Carroll Univ.

Ministry:

Sister Frances was born in Pittsburgh on October 4, 1915 – the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, and attended St. Casimir Elementary School in Pittsburgh’s South Side. Her pastor at St. Casimir’s was Rev. Magnus Kazenas, who was instrumental in bringing our founding Sisters to Pittsburgh from Chicago in 1922, and she actually met these Sisters at the train station in Pittsburgh. Sister Frances attended St. Francis Academy and entered the congregation in 1933, just 11 years after its founding.

Sister Frances’ education ministry spanned over 50 years at 14 different elementary schools in eight states including Michigan, Connecticut, Illinois and California. In Pittsburgh, she taught at St. Valentine and St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin.

In 1986, at the age of 71, Sister began her ministry at the Franciscan Child Day Care Center, where she served as a teacher, then later as Resource Supervisor. She described her 18 years at the Day Care Center as a “truly happy and blessed experience” and that “taking care of the babies and toddlers brought much joy and consolation” as she adjusted to her latest phase of religious life.

At age 88, when she might “retire,” Sister Frances continued serving the community with her artistic talent with crafts, especially crilling, a form of paper art. She was especially gifted and created many lovely cards which are treasured even today. She loved crocheting baby afghans or bonnets while listening to her favorite classical music. Her passions were as varied as reading poetry or cheering for her Steelers and Pirates!

Sister dedicated herself fully to the ministry of prayer at the age of 97. Although she graciously accepted her move from our motherhouse to Presbyterian Senior Care in 2014, this was one of the “great sufferings” she felt Jesus was asking of her in her final months. Finding it difficult to hear and suffering from failing vision, Sister Frances remained a very prayerful woman.

Be still and know that I am God.

~Psalm 46:10