

Sister M. Sylvia Krafton, OSF

November 27, 1921 - January 29, 2023



Secular Name: Frances Clare Krafton
Birth: November 27, 1921
Parents: John and Anastasia
Siblings: 11 Children
Entrance: September 8, 1938
Higher Education: Bachelors and Masters from Duquesne University

Ministry:

Frances Clare Krafton was born in Lawrence, MA, the daughter of John and Anastasia, Lithuanian immigrants who came to the United States to assure a better life for their eleven children. As the youngest child, Frances attended elementary and junior high school in Massachusetts before enrolling in St. Francis Academy in Pittsburgh. She entered the community on September 8, 1938. Her mother, herself a lay Franciscan, largely influenced Frances' decision by her prayerful example and encouragement.

Sister Sylvia's ministry taught elementary school children for over 36 years in Amsterdam NY, Elizabeth NJ, and Kenosha WI as well as Esplen, DuBois and Pittsburgh. From 1982-1993, she served as Director of the community's after-school R-T-R program (Reading-Thinking-Reasoning). She and the retired sisters on her staff taught reading and math skills to eager learners, achieving outstanding results.

For over fifteen years, Sister Sylvia was called to take care of her father and two brothers until God called each back to their heavenly home. Her one sister, Sister Celine, a member of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Putnam CT was a resident in her congregation's nursing home until her death.

When she returned to the Motherhouse in 1996, Sister Sylvia coordinated the Craft Program and did this until she was again called to assist in caring for her brother Richard in Massachusetts. After his death, Sister Sylvia once again returned to the Motherhouse to begin her Ministry of Prayer for three years before her brother Albert needed her assistance. Even though she herself was 85 she felt the need to assist in his care at his home in Salem NH.

Sister Sylvia returned in 2008 and continued her Ministry of Prayer, first at the Motherhouse and then in 2014 with our sisters in the Willows, the skilled care unit at Presbyterian Senior Care in Oakmont.

For the next nine years, as her health and her memory began to fail. She remained the quiet, gentle woman of God. It was only in her final years that she showed some signs of anxiety but was calmed by the sisters and staff who cared for her. In 2021 Sister Sylvia celebrated her 100th birthday at the Willows surrounded by our Sisters and her nieces. She certainly enjoyed her cake and ice cream!

During her ministerial life she was a happy, prayerful Franciscan, caring and cheerful in her many assignments that allowed her to teach the little ones from kindergarten through grade seven. Sisters and students alike admired her graceful walk, her prim and proper way and her ability to remain calm under stress.

“What does the Lord your God ask of you - but to follow his ways, to live and serve your God with all your heart.” (Deut. 10:12)

