
O B I T U A R Y

Sister Mary Jane Phillips, OP

(S. Mary Francis)

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, March 5, 2024, our Sister Mary Jane Phillips was welcomed into the arms of her loving God. Mary Jane was 92 years old and had served the people of God as a Sister of St. Dominic for close to 68 years.

On August 4, 1931, Morley and Mary (nee O'Hara) Phillips welcomed their first-born daughter into their home in Queens, New York (NY). A few years later, Mary Jane was joined by her sister Ann to complete the Phillips family.

After graduating from Jean Baptiste High School in Manhattan, Mary Jane began her studies in Mary Immaculate School of Nursing in Queens, NY. She graduated as a Registered Nurse. Soon after graduating, Mary Jane enlisted in the United States Air Force and used her nursing skills at an Air Force Base in Texas. After her discharge from the Air Force, Mary Jane continued her nursing career as a Public Health Nurse in Jamaica and also as a per diem nurse at Mary Immaculate Hospital.

On September 8, 1956, Mary Jane entered the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville as a member of the White Aster set. She was clothed in the Dominican habit on August 5, 1957 and given the religious name, Sister Mary Francis. After a year of Novitiate, Sister pronounced her First Vows on August 7, 1958. Three years later on



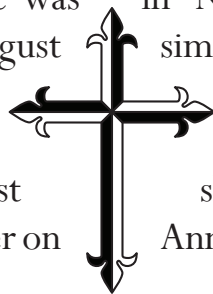
“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.”
- Jeremiah 17:14

August 7, 1961, she pronounced her Final Vows. Subsequently, Mary Jane received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. John's University in Jamaica and a Master of Science in Psychiatric Nursing from Adelphi University in Garden City.

As a Sister, Mary Jane ministered as a nurse for 19 years in Our Lady of Consolation Residence in West Islip, Mary Immaculate Hospital in Jamaica, and Coney Island Hospital in Brooklyn. For the next 34 years, Mary Jane taught Psychiatric Nursing at Molloy College (now University) in Rockville Centre. Mary Jane moved to Rosary Hall in 2011. In 2017, as her health began to diminish, she moved to Carlin Hall.

Mary Jane was a very capable, efficient, and compassionate nurse. When she was in the Novitiate, most of the novices came down with the Asian Flu. Mary Jane took excellent care of them and made sure they got better. Her peers say, “She was a strict nurse!”

Mary Jane had many interests outside of nursing. For many years she attended operas in New York City, and later she viewed simulcasts of operas at nearby movie theatres or watched them on TV. She truly enjoyed music and the arts. In fact, she had a print of Henry Ossawa Tanner's Annunciation above her bed.



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Mary Jane was quiet and had a dry sense of humor. She loved to read, especially mysteries. Mary Jane had a great love for all things English, a true Anglophile, who had the opportunity to visit England several times. Speaking of traveling, Mary Jane also had the opportunity to take a cruise from San Francisco to Hawaii.

While living in the Motherhouse, Mary Jane volunteered at The Opening Word Program. She was a great teacher and role-model for the women, and they loved her.

Our Sister Mary Jane was pre-deceased by her parents, Morley and Mary, and also

by her sister Ann. What a reunion they must be having! Mary Jane will be missed by her niece Maureen, by her nephews Christopher and Richard, as well as by their families and the many sisters with whom she lived in community.

The wake and funeral for our dear Sister Mary Jane will be held in St. Albert Chapel in Amityville on Thursday, March 7, 2024. Visitation will be at 9:45 AM. Morning Prayer will be at 10:15 AM followed by the Mass of Christian Burial. Interment will follow in St. Dominic Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.
